Wednesday, October 14, 2009 44 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 280 P10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

KILOMETER 17 Taking their children and whatever belongings they could carry, the people of Benguet have started hiking through rough mountainous terrain, to get out of their towns isolated by Tropical Storm "Pepeng," like this mother and her baby. The storm triggered massive landslides that closed Halsema Highway, the main route to Benguet. President Arroyo has ordered the clearing of Halsema within three days. STORY, LAUSAN, P2 STORY, P4

Dam spill came too late

San Roque execs accused of not following procedures

By Gabriel Carillanca
in Dagupan
Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.,
Amy R. Remo
and Leila B. Salaverria
in Manila

DID OFFICIALS OF THE San Roque Dam follow their operations manual in regulating its water level amid the incessant rain and flooding triggered by Tropical Storm "Pepeng"?

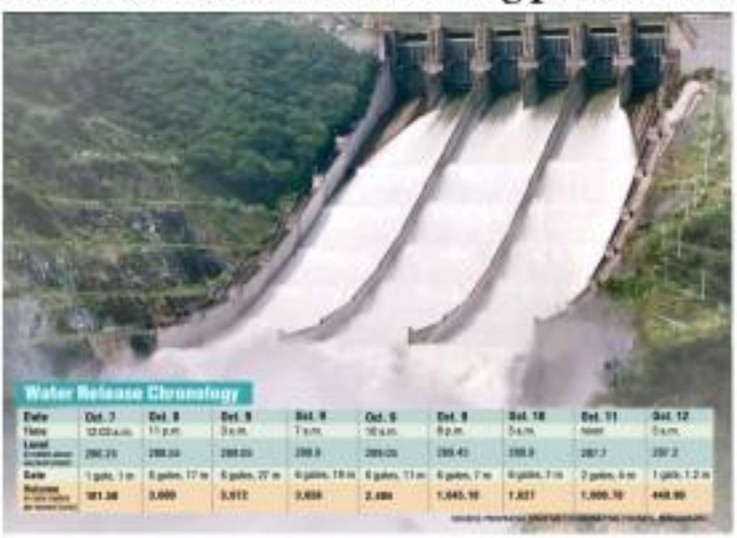
The officials say they did. But based on the extent of the flooding that hit Pangasinan and the magnitude of the devastation, a Dagupan-based environmentalist doesn't think so.

Nicanor Melecio, president of the NGO Pangasinan Institute for Land and Aquatic Research, said dam officials should have started releasing water at 500 cubic meters per second (cms) when the dam's level had reached 280 meters above sea level (masl) as indicated in their basic operation rule.

The dam has a maximum elevation of 290 masl.

Under the rule, water release

DAM SPILL/ A4



Water Release Chronology

Date	Oct. 7	Oct. 8	Oct. 9	Oct. 9	Oct. 6	Oct. 9	Oct. 10	Oct. 11	Oct. 12
Time	12:00 a.m.	11 p.m.	3 a.m.	7 a.m.	10 a.m.	8 p.m.	5 a.m.	noon	5 a.m.
Level (meters above sea level)	280.25	280.04	280.03	280.0	280.06	280.43	280.9	281.1	281.2
Gate	1 gate, 1 m	6 gates, 17 m	6 gates, 27 m	6 gates, 19 m	6 gates, 11 m	6 gates, 7 m	6 gates, 7 m	2 gates, 6 m	1 gate, 1.2 m
Release (in cubic meters per second (cms))	181.38	3,000	5,012	3,650	2,486	1,645.10	1,821	1,000.10	448.90

Source: Pantabangan-Carranglan Watershed Development Project, Philippines

Kidnapped priest seen thrice; AFP holds fire

By Julie S. Alipala
and Ryan D. Rosauro
Inquirer Mindanao
and Alexis Papa
in Manila

ZAMBOANGA CITY—NAVY gunboats and ground troops yesterday joined forces to block the escape routes of gunmen holding Irish priest Fr. Michael Sinnott, who was seized by men believed to be the same ones that kidnapped an Italian missionary two years ago.

Sinnott was abducted on Tuesday night while strolling outside his convent in Pagadian

KIDNAPPED/ A17

Survey says incidence of hunger down

THE PROPORTION OF families experiencing involuntary hunger at least once in the past three months has declined by 2.8 percentage points, or the equivalent of 500,000 families, according to a Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey.

However, the latest overall hunger rate was still higher than

SURVEY/ A11

GMA forms body to run rehab; MVP is chair

By TJ Burgonio

DAGUPAN CITY—FACED WITH the enormous task of having to pump out floodwaters and rebuild roads and bridges, President Macapagal-Arroyo has formed a body to do a post-mortem on Tropical Storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" and seek aid to rehabilitate the country.

The Special National Public-Private Sector Reconstruction Commission will also undertake a rehabilitation plan for wrecked infrastructure, Ms Arroyo said.

"This is going to be chaired by a business leader and Manny V. Pangilinan (MVP) has agreed to chair this commission," she said at a meeting of the National Disaster Coordinating Council and Cabinet at the Dagupan West Central School.

The commission will be cochaired by Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, the President said.

Ms Arroyo announced the

GOVT FIGHTS/ A6

Headless but no longer nameless

By Delmar Carino
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—If not for his fingerprints, Sanitan Polistes would just be one of the unidentified and unclaimed bodies recovered from landslide-hit Little Kibungan in Barangay Pugalo.

His body was one of the first recovered from the rubble on Oct. 9. But it was found headless, causing initial doubts among his kin as to its identity.

No one could remember the clothes he last wore, and there was neither wallet nor identification card on the corpse.

Polistes, 42, had a mole on the neck—the only distinguishing mark on his body, according to his family. But it could not be found because he was decapitated.

Members of the town's health

HEADLESS/ A9

Calamity diplomas? No way, says DepEd chief

By Philip C. Tabosa

"CINDERELLA" AND "PEPENG" MOTHER BOARDing, no way are public school children getting "calamity diplomas."

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus yesterday turned down Sen. Francis Escudero's suggestion that students in areas devastat-

CALAMITY/ A17

All roads to Baguio now open but limited

By TJ Burgonio
and Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—AFTER CLEARing and blasting away debris, the government yesterday opened Marcos Highway and Naguilian Road to motorists to normalize the transport of goods to and from Baguio City.

Marcos Highway was opened at 7 a.m., said Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. in an interview at Dagupan West Central School here, where President Macapagal-Arroyo presided over a meeting of her Cabinet. "But of course, there are portions where only one lane is passable."

At 2:30 a.m. yesterday, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) blasted boulders that blocked portions of Naguilian Road (Quirino Highway) near the border of Benguet and La Union on the way to the mountain resort, officials said.

Another route to Baguio—Kennon Road—was reopened at midnight Sunday but still on a limited scale, with outbound traffic allowed from 6 a.m. to

ALL ROADS/ A18

WHAT'S INSIDE

8 signs the car you're eyeing has been under water
MOTORING / B8

Exports dropped 21% to $3.47B in August
BUSINESS / B1

Congress split over P12-B calamity fund
NEWS / A2

Americans win Nobel Prize in economics
WORLD / 24

BAGUIO'S MARKET worse was out of foodstuffs as still during Typhoon "Pepeng," is now the high prices of its commodities that kept consumers away. Prices are expected to normalize with the opening of roads to the city. >>>>> Lamen

Congress split on ₱12-B calamity fund

By Leila Salaverria, Jerome Aning and Christine Avendaño

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES APPROVED late Monday night a joint congressional resolution authorizing President Macapagal-Arroyo to use P12 billion in unprogrammed funds to repair damaged infrastructure and help the victims of the back-to-back typhoons that devastated parts of the country.

The Senate, however, which was expected to approve the resolution late last night, failed to do so after Sen. Benigno Aquino III asked that he be given a chance to ask questions today, the last session day before Congress goes on recess until Oct. 17.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, chair of the finance committee, who sponsored the joint resolution, acceded to Aquino's request, which was made after Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Juan Ponce Enrile questioned the supplemental budget.

Pimentel and Madrigal elected to the floats being contested by the National Unity Coordinating Council (NUCC) headed by Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro. They were bothered by Teodoro's being a presidential candidate of the administration coalition.

"I'm disappointed, I thought we could march the sincerity and seriousness of the House," Angara said.

Quirino Rep. Junie Cua said Congress had to resort to allocating the unprogrammed funds for the immediate spending on relief and rehabilitation as it was unable to approve supplemental budgets to deal with the calamities because of the lack of available funds.

Before any supplemental budget can be passed, the Bureau of the Treasury has to issue a certification attesting to the availability of the money.

Cua said the joint resolution expresses the sense of Congress authorizing the President to use unprogrammed funds, which usually come from excess revenues, loans or grants, even if these had not yet been realized.

He explained that it was aware of a "standby appropriation" or "appropriation saver" so that Malacañang could use additional funds that it could obtain through loans, grants or donations once these come in. Earlier this day, the President to prioritize these using any funds if these are not covered by a law.

But is it enough?

Angara and Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile asked if P12 billion was even enough in considering four initial damage to agriculture and infrastructure has been estimated at P28 billion and the number of affected Filipinos was placed at 7 million.

"The scale and scope of the loss in lives, property and infrastructure is probably the biggest we had to have been inflicted on our nation. The emergency appropriation of P12 billion will only partially relieve the suffering and mitigate the damage," said Angara.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said the increased spending for relief and rehabilitation would necessarily increase the budget deficit to 2.26%.

Before the typhoons, the Philippines was expected to post a second fiscal shortfall this year of P350 billion, or 3.1 percent of GDP, a target which Finance Secretary Margarito Teves had said was becoming difficult to hit because of persistently weak state revenues.

Teves has said the government was not prepared to borrow foreign debt issues, via either global bonds or a yen bond issue, to fund possible extra spending this year for typhoon relief.

Revenue from Malampaya

National Treasurer Roberto Tan said the government was expecting extra revenue of P14.9 billion from its share in the sale of natural gas from the Malampaya field off Palawan, an amount it can tap for typhoon relief if its existing natural gas contracts allow it.

Meanwhile, a visiting United Nations official said the UN would issue an appeal for tens of millions of dollars more in funds aid for the Philippines, in addition to the $16 million already pledged for the country as it grapples with the massive destruction caused by the two typhoons, the UN Envoy.

The UN "flash appeal" for $7.4 million is set for this Philippines has so far generated $1.6 million, and another $25 million has been committed separately, said John Holmes, the UN undersecretary for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief.

Holmes, who visited some of the affected areas in Pangasinan province, explained that the flash appeal was made only for victims of "Ondoy." He said the government may request the inclusion of areas ravaged by "Pepeng" in the same appeal.

The UN will review the appeal in three to four weeks, and is ready to call for more aid after a final assessment of the extent of damage from Pepeng is made, he said.

"This is a major crisis and a major tragedy for so many people. [It] agencies and nongovernmental organizations are glad to be able to help the government's relief efforts," Holmes said.

The Israel Forum for International Humanitarian Aid Activities is sending a five-person team to assist in relief efforts, the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

The team, scheduled to leave for the Philippines on Oct. 16, will be composed of a doctor, a nurse, and rescue workers. The group will stay in the Philippines for two weeks, after which another team will take its place.

World Jewish Relief, the United Jewish NGOs based in Israel that are active in development and relief work.

Overseas Pinoys give

Meanwhile, contributions from Filipino overseas communities in various parts of the world continue to pour in.

About P60.07 lapsed in Andorra, a small principality in the Pyrenees mountains between Spain and France, sent in association president Carlos Sardua with its contribution to the Philippine consulate general in Barcelona, Spain, on Oct. 7.

The Filipino community in Milan, Italy, raised P700 euros (about P155,000), much of the money collected from two benefit concerts held by Filipino and Italian artists, as well as relief goods.

Filipinos in Lebanon raised $1,504 from several collections in special Masses on Oct. 4 and 11.

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Bill filed on hazards disclosure

A LAWMAKER HAS filed a bill that would compel property developers to disclose the natural hazards that could pose a threat to the lot being sold to buyers.

Rep. Elpidio R. Mendoza II said the current circumstances did not reveal whether flooding is environmental and economical areas had prompted calls for more transparency in the sale of real estate.

In his proposed House Bill 3266, Mendoza said developers must submit to buyers if the properties are in flood-prone areas, near earthquake faults, or are susceptible to tidal waves, volcanic eruptions, lahar and landslides.

If no geographical maps are available, Mendoza said the developers should take it upon themselves to conduct their own tests.

Should the developer fail to disclose the hazards to an area, Mendoza said the buyer would have the option to void the contract.

—Delfin Mangosing

Ignoring peril puts RP economy at risk – UND

MAKI, BHUTAN— The Philippines will immediately lose the economic gains it has made if it ignores climate projections and management, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) said yesterday.

"Climate change is going to be a huge issue as well as the frequency of disasters in the Philippines," said Ajay Chhibber, director of UNDP Asia and the Pacific, as he expressed concern about the devastation that "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" brought to the country.

"More resilience need to be built" in the Philippines, he said.

Chhibber said the country "has made very good economic progress" despite the global economic crisis.

But with the recent calamities, he observed that "many people have just escaped poverty and one disaster could throw them back. This is where I think more should be done."

The UNDP official addressed a four-day conference on democracy organized by the UNDP and the Bhutan government which gathered some 300 delegates from all over Asia.

Bhutan, the land-locked Himalayan kingdom nestled between the politically dominant countries of China and India, has entered a new era of democracy starting with its first national parliamentary elections which was completed in March 2008, King Jigme Singye Wangchuck ceded Bhutan's five Constitutions in July 2008.

Though it is still taking baby steps toward democracy, Bhutan can serve as a "role model" even for older democracies like the Philippines, especially in how the small nation is governing itself. – Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Leptospirosis on rise after floods

By Dona Pazzibugan

WITH ALMOST 400 CASES REported in Metro Manila since two weeks after the deposition of Tropical Storm "Ondoy," health authorities urged everyone who waded in floodwaters to immediately see a doctor should they develop symptoms of leptospirosis.

As of Oct. 12, the Department of Health (DOH) has recorded 382 leptospirosis cases in nine hospitals in Metro Manila.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said the number of cases reported already represents about half of last year's total figure.

Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection caused by swallowing or absorbing leptospira bacteria contaminated water through cuts in the skin, or from eating contaminated food.

While the disease is commonly associated with rat urine, infection also come from animals like cattle, pigs, horses, dogs and wild animals, the DOH explained. The bacteria live in fresh water and are killed immediately by heat, disinfectant, acids and alkalis.

The most common symptoms are flu-like, including fever, a red skin rash and general weakness. Headaches, redness of eyes, tenderness in the calves and joint pains, vomiting and fatigue are also common.

Severe cases can result in kidney failure and involve the liver and brain. Thus, some leptospirosis sufferers may exhibit jaundice (or yellowish body discoloration), dark colored urine and light stools, low urine output and severe headache.

Treatment involves antibiotics. Early consultation is advised as there must be early recognition and treatment with, in two days of the onset of the illness, severe complications.

With the flooding in different parts of the country, authorities expect cases of leptospirosis to increase in the next two weeks, Duque said.

He advised anyone working in the floodwaters to prevent any kind of skin lesions by wearing boots and gloves and prevent flood-water from entering their eyes, nose and mouth.

GMA to reluctant Reyes: Go after oil firms

SAUDER (2D)—THE ORDER was nearly why was it not implemented?

President Macapagal-Arroyo directed Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes to go after oil companies that might resort to what she called "predatory pricing" and take advantage of consumers amid the state of calamity.

But Reyes appeared reluctant to do so when reminded of the order by Mr. Arroyo at yesterday's Cabinet and National Disaster Coordinating Council meeting held at the Dagupan West Central School here.

Reacting to reports of overpriced cooking gas, the President warned violators here and said in Filipino: "Negas, you have regulatory powers. You already have a mission."

She was referring to an Oct. 12 memorandum she issued to "prevent predatory pricing, unconscionable pricing, unfair action, among others, which the oil industry players may resort to."

As a result, many stayed away from the day-to-day Reyes and Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera to use Republic Act No. 8479 or the Downstream Oil Deregulation Act of 1998 to "prevent unreasonable increases in prices, especially during times of calamity."

But Reyes reminded his boss that under RA 8479, "no control or any price ceiling on petroleum products."

"But you can check on their operations to see whether their prices are justified," she retorted. "You have to exercise your statutory powers. Open their books."

While Reyes appeared reluctant, Devanadera was more aggressive about going after erring oil companies.

Devanadera cited a provision in the law which states: "In times of national emergency when the President shall, by proclamation, the (Department of Energy) may during the emergency and under reasonable terms prescribed by it, temporarily take over or direct the operation of any person or entity engaged in the industry." (Dona Pazzibugan)

Corrections

IN THE OCT. 7 ISSUE, a story on Page A6—"Bilibid inmates donate 20,000 cans of sardines to flood victims"—misstated the official name of the national penitentiary. Its name is Bureau Bilibid Prisons—not National Bilibid Prisons.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 8 ISSUE, a map accompanying an Across the Nation story on Page A10—"Volcanic tremor wears also flooded"—mistakenly labeled the town of Bongal as Bilol.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 11, ISSUE, a front page story—"Tapping leaves more than 200 people dead"—mistakenly said that Bongabon has 100,000 rice fields. The paragraph should have read: "Bongabon, the third largest rice-producing province, has 101,000 hectares of rice fields."

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, the "In Headline" column of Bob Cohn on Page A17 of the SundayExpress section—"Domestic tots and namesake also in trouble"—misspelled the surname of a former basketball player. His name is Fidelino Ismael—not Ismil.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for corrections/factual errors (according to the Oct. 2008, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 888 Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Ayala Avenue, Makati City), fax (02) 897-8710 or e-mail addr ss: factcheck@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about fair reflections or objectionable may be sent to the Publisher, e-mail address: publisher@inquirer.com.ph or fax (02) 897-8710. Attn: The Publisher. Telephone number (+632) 896-6000 ext. 8000.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, October 14, 2009
28th Week in Ordinary Time
Callixtus

1st Reading: Rom 2:1-11
Gospel: Lk 11:42-46

Jesus said, "I woe to you, Pharisees, for the Temple you give a tenth of all, including rue and rue and the other herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. This ought to be practiced, without neglecting the other. A curse is on you, Pharisees, for you love the best seats in the synagogues and to be greeted in the marketplaces. A curse is on you for you are like tombstones of the dead which are hardly known; people don't realize they are walks themselves unaware by unpleasant shame."

Then a teacher of the Law spoke up and said, "Master, when you speak like this, you insult us, too." And Jesus answered, "A curse is on you also, teachers of the Law, for you prepare unbearable burdens and load them on the people, while you yourselves don't move a finger to help them."

Commentary:

Jesus utters a series of woes against the Pharisees. The negative implications of these woes are substantial. Here the Pharisees minimize, not, and worry little about what should do but they are emphatically aware important things: justice and the love of God. The Pharisees' love of money and their love of honor are even more from losing God and God's justice; judgment of their actions clearly pertains to their relationship for moral governance. The grasping after honors is an essential part of their greediness.

The seat of honor in the synagogue was, of course, a place of prominence, as was sitting at the head table at dinner. To be greeted there by another person was a sign of respect that acknowledged the honor of another. The Pharisees' absurd social relationships; they were especially indifferent to the plight of the poor. Their greediness for social honors also explains their lofty role in public scholarship to them was so strong. Anyone who group who honor independence and today's set intended to find their presumptuous expectations to be illuminated and effectively eliminated. Today, Christ emphatically declares that religious standing should not be used to enhance one's status in society.

A5

'Atienza can sue mayors'

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Lito Atienza may not be able to send 1,000 erring mayors to jail for operating garbage dumps but he can still sue them.

In a statement yesterday, Jose Fajardo of the Bangsa Kalikasan Movement said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is considered to most water-and-dioxin codex against violators of the country's environmental laws.

If Atienza fails to do this, he should resign, Fajardo said.

Atienza, in coordination with the Philippine National Police, can immediately effect the closure of dumps...as well as invoke habeas corpus, ordering persons and environmental clearance certificates," Fajardo said.

Those activities persist, he said, despite repeated orders from environment secretary past and present.

Alexis Pepe

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It's Erap-Binay, says Jinggoy

MAKATI RIVAL JUDGE ORDAT WILL BE former President Joseph Estrada's running mate in the 2010 presidential election, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada said yesterday.

"Confirmed. May tiwala, may Binay pa [We have formula and you have Binay, as well]," Estrada told reporters at the Senate yesterday.

The senator described the ticket, which was finalized several weeks ago, as "still a have to conduct with."

"They were supposed to make an announcement (today), but because of the disturbances of relief goods, my father had to go to Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan and La Union," said the younger Estrada.

The announcement, to be made in Iloilo, Manila, was moved to Oct. 22.

The senator also announced he would seek reelection under his father's Partido ng Masang Pilipino. Other ministerial candidates include Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, also a reelectionist, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Representative Prof. Daniel "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. and Teodoro Locsin Jr., Cesar Drilon, daughter of the late actor Bernardo Pao Jr., businessman Joey de Venecia III, and detained Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim.

"We're still negotiating with (actor) Eric Quizon, so we're reserving two slots in case we're going to form a coalition or an alliance with (other parties)," Estrada said.

The senator said his father was not afraid of any legal impediments that may be thrown his way in his second stint at the presidency.

"We'll cross that bridge when we get there," said the younger Estrada.

— Michael Lim Ubac

Edita Burgos takes plight of RP's 'disappeared' to UK

By Jerome Aning

EDITA BURGOS, MOTHER OF MISSing activist Jonas Burgos and chair of the human rights group Desaparecidos (The Disappeared), will arrive in the United Kingdom tomorrow on the first leg of a European tour to highlight the problem of involuntary disappearances in the Philippines.

"I am coming to the UK in the hope that I can help people realize what is happening to good people like my son and many, many others in the Philippines," Burgos said in a statement sent to the Inquirer by the London-based Campaign for Human Rights in the Philippines (CHRP), UK, which assisted her.

In the statement, Burgos mentioned next year's elections in the Philippines, saying, "I want us to alert human people who will help end disappearances. If we do not put people there who will be sincere at dismantling all the institutions used to abduct people, these disappearances will not end."

Burgos will speak on Oct. 21 at a forum organized by CHRP-UK together with Amnesty International UK and the British trade union group Unison at the 40 Holman Rights Action Centre.

CHRP-UK said Burgos' UK engagement is part of a European tour to draw attention to the plight of her son and the disturbing human rights record of the Arroyo administration and its military leaders.

US tour last year

Last year, Burgos spent a month touring the United States to raise international awareness of human rights violations in the Philippines. She also met with United Nations Special Rapporteur Philip Alston, whose own assessment was that the military and insurgency campaign is the country had something to do with the disappearances and extrajudicial killing of hundreds of Filipino activists, as well as human rights lawyers, journalists and labor leaders.

Jonas, 36 at the time of his abduction, was an agricultural and land rights activist connected with the Alyansang Magbubukid ng Gitnang Luzon, a local affiliate of the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas. He was abducted by gunmen in broad daylight from a restaurant in a shopping mall in Quezon City on April 28, 2007.

The son of the late newspaper publisher Joe Burgos Jr., an internationally recognized press freedom hero, Jonas' disappearance has drawn much media attention.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had personally called up Burgos to assure her the police would aggressively pursue the case of her son, Lirio Burgos, however, has been made in the case.

Burgos had testified before the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva that she believed the Philippine military was behind the abduction of her son.

'Order of Battle'

Witnesses had listed the plate number of the vehicle used by Jonas' abductors and traced it to an army camp in Bulacan.

Burgos claimed a confidential military memo showed to her shortly after her abduction had Jonas' name on a list dubbed "Order of Battle" which among believe was a list of communists targeted for arrest or elimination. Next to Jonas' name was written the word "neutralized," she said.

The CHRP-UK statement said the Philippine government has since presented three officers implicated in the incident to the media. The officers said the license plate had apparently been stolen from their camp.

"The presidents of these men only confirms the truth to our claim that the government, the state forces, are behind the disappearances," Burgos said.

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31ST YEAR OF CATHOLIC MASS MEDIA AWARDS (CMMA)
Cory to be conferred Sin-inspired Serviam award; best values-based mass media works to be honored

On its 31st year, the Catholic Mass Media Awards honors former President Corazon C. Aquino with the Serviam Award, a special award named after the motto of the late Jaime L. Cardinal Sin—I Will Serve—expressing his concept of servant leadership.

Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo of Jaro, Iloilo President, CBCP

Former President Corazon C. Aquino

Archbishop Oscar Arnaiz Archbishop of Pampanga, Papal Nuncio to the Philippines

More than 80 mass media communicators, individual and institutional, will receive the CMMA for producing the best values-oriented mass media projects or communities to be held on Oct. 16, Wednesday, 4:30 p.m., at the San Carlos Seminary Auditorium, EDSA Guadalupe, Makati City.

Archbishop Edwin Joseph Adams, Papal Nuncio to the Philippines, will speak on the theme "Promoting a Culture of Respect, Dialogue and Friendship, in the Digital Generation." The CMMA theme is based on the message of Pope Benedict XVI for World Communications Day last May, which called for the use of today's modern communication and information technologies to promote social transformation and to uphold humanity.

Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo of Jaro, Iloilo and outgoing president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, will say mass. The Advent Regalia or Relief Vestments and formally present the Serviam Award to the Children.

The centennial of Mrs. Aquino of the Serviam Award brings together the two iconic individuals who cemented the spirit of EDSA that made possible the return of democratic rule in the country. The Serviam Award was first conferred in 2005 following the death of the Cardinal earlier that year. Separate from the regular mass media awards, it was established to honor individuals and institutions who promote Christian values through their service to the people.

The CMMA was initiated by Cardinal Sin in 1976 in observance of World Communications Day established by the Vatican to stress the importance of mass media and instill a sense of responsibility to mass media communicators. Through the awards, the archdiocese of Manila pays tribute to mass media communicators "who serve God through media."

The awards were personally handed out by Pope John Paul II in the course of his visit to the Philippines in 1981.

Winners of the CMMA are agreed upon by panels of judges representing sectors in the different media fields of Print, Radio, Television, Advertising, Cinema, Music, Student CMMA and Internet. The judges are chosen by organizers and confirmed by the Archbishop of Manila, Guadencio B. Cardinal Rosales.

Ambassador Antonio L. Cabangon-Chua, chairman and president of the CMMA, said the CMMA Foundation, Inc. is committed to protect the integrity of the CMMA by requiring that the independence of the panels of judges that selected the winners in the different media categories.

According to the CMMA Secretariat, a moment for this year a total of 147 entries for 41 media categories. Aside from the CMMA for best media productions, special citations will also be handed out to several media personalities.

To be elevated to the Hall of Fame are five awardees who have been winners in a category for three years and more.

Also to be handed out are the Cardinal Sin Catholic Book Awards, a project of the Asian Catholic Communicators, Inc., which like the CMMA was founded by Cardinal Sin. The Cardinal Sin Book Awards were first handed out at the CMMA ceremonies in 2005.

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Mar, Korina scrap reception

SEN. MAR ROXAS and Interior Korina Sanchez have decided to scrap their much-awaited wedding reception at Rizalista Clubhouse in Cubao, Quezon City on Oct. 27, in light of the recent calamities.

The P5 million they would have spent on the reception will instead be donated to various relief operations such as Ampatuyan of ABS-CBN which continues to air broadcasts, Kapuso Foundation of GMA 7, Caritas Manila and Philippine National Red Cross.

The capital city of Sta. Domingo Church in Quezon City, however, will push through on Oct. 27 at 3 p.m. Rizal 2,000 guests have been invited to the wedding.

The couple have asked church officials to let them serve light food and refreshments to the guests in the courtyard after the rites.

The celebrant reception would have had 8,000 guests who would have been treated to PR opinions-inspired show of stars from both ABS-CBN and GMA 7. The menu would have included bites, embellish, roses coil, among native favorites.

"It didn't seem right to spend on a celebration while the rest of the country is inundated in misery," Sanchez told the inquirer. "Now the money is reaching us and today, where we really needed it's a people's wedding in the true sense."

The church wedding will still carry a Filipiniana theme, with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra and Madrigal Singers serenading guests with kundiman and other Filipino music.

"We are hoping our guests will understand why we are doing this," Sanchez said.

Roxas is the running mate of LP standard bearer Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

Sanchez had originally planned to run for president but gave way to Aquino.

ANNUAL LITURGICAL EXHIBIT OF THE MOTHER BUTLER MISSION GUILDS

The Manila Chapter of The Mother Butler Mission Guilds will have its Annual Liturgical Exhibit on October 17 from 1 p.m. to October 19, 2009 at the Christ the King Parish Formation Center at Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City.

The exhibit will present mass vestments and altar linen prepared by members and friends. It will also show altar equipment to be given by the Mother Butler Mission guilds to poor parishes and missions here and abroad.

Entrance is free. For inquiries, please call Tel. No. 561-3885.

'We warned them but they did not leave their homes'

By Julie M. Aurelio

RESIDENTS OF IMAGINAYAN swarm flooded during Tropical Storm "Pepeng" are saying that several times above the spilling of water from the San Roque Dam, a National Power Corp. engineer said yesterday.

"We regularly gave warnings, but people in the areas to be affected by the opening of the spillgates did not leave their homes for safety ground," engineer Normandie Bellosa said at a disaster mitigation forum at the University of the Philippines.

People, especially those living downstream of the San Roque Dam in San Manuel, were given several advisories at least six hours before the dam released excess water, Bellosa said.

"But when we warn the residents, they don't leave immediately, they tend to wait because they don't want to abandon their homes," he added.

"I have heard that we will be sued for allegedly spilling too much power, but what I'd like to assure you is that there is a crane system in Dagupan which keeps on flooding, and that is the cause of the flooding, not the San Roque Dam," Bellosa said.

He said the dam administrators incorporated the average basin rainfall at the San Roque Dam from eight rainfall gauging stations for four days.

From Oct. 6 to 9, the average basin rainfall was pegged at 387.6 mm. Bellosa pointed out that the figure was 203 percent higher than the average basin rainfall for the month of October for the past 13 years.

Too much rain

"We will really say that there were too much rainfall. Even if we didn't want to spill water, we had to do it. We had no choice but to let the water flow," he added.

Bellosa said the dam spilled 403 million cubic meters of water during the storm.

He noted that administrators used a flood forecasting warning system to which the rain and water level were monitored constantly.

In the summer, residents are briefed on how to melt safety valve. spillways are opened, he said.

Dam spill came too late; officials hit for not following rules

From page A1

operator from "zero feet to 198 feet" when floods occur, said Meloncio, a former member of the San Roque Dam multipurpose monitoring team.

"You have 30 days to play with an increasing flood water by anticipating the water coming from the watershed," he said.

In a privilege speech, Imelda Marcos-Rep. Imee Marcos-Ilocos Sur yesterday called for an inquiry into the operations of the dams.

Cabanegro said that the "overloading" of downstream river systems beside the San Roque Dam had caused "tremendous devastation" in his province that could have been avoided had the dam operators followed a more "conservative and a cautious approach" in releasing excess water.

The San Roque Dam captures water released by the Ambuklao and Binga hydroelectric dams in the upstream Agno River in Benguet.

Power needs vs people's lives

When the San Roque Dam shifts to "flood mode," or has reached the 280 mad mark, it should not be allowed to reach 290 mad, Meloncio said.

"If you reach 290, it will be very difficult to control. So, even during the first 20 hours, you can see the [water] level. You can't even go up to 60 hours or 500 cms," he said.

Meloncio said water may be released up to 1,400 cms. "So, so you are releasing water, the dam's water level that is supposed to be going up in 200 mad actually flattens," he said.

But if the rains continues, and the dam's water approaches the critical level of 280 mad, then there is no choice but to release more than 1,400 cms, he said.

"And so the question is: Do you have to wait for the water level so much a very critical level so that you will release more than 1,400 cms? That's the crux of the matter. How do you balance power needs as against people's lives?" Meloncio said.

Water releases

Based on 2009 media advisories, Tom Meiles, a vice president of the San Roque Multipurpose Project (SRMP) that operates the facility owned by Manila Power Corp. (Napocor), said the dam first opened a spillway gate midnight of Oct. 7 when the water level was 287.65 mad.

Pepeng smashed Cagayan Valley on Oct. 11 and lingered west of northern Luzon for over a week before moving out of the country in the weekend.

The Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) in Pangasinan recorded the first water release at 12:43 a.m. on Oct. 7, when the water elevation at the San Roque Dam was 286.5 mad. The rate of water release was 161.3 cms, with one gate opened at a height of a meter.

Meiles's advisory said that on the same day, the dam opened another gate and released excess water at 450 cms.

All 8 spillway gates open

The bulk of water releases came on Oct. 8 when dam officials announced the opening of all its six spillway gates and released water at 2,500 cms.

The PDCC record showed that the dam, by 1:1 p.m. that day, was releasing water through its six gates at a rate of 3,686 cms. Water elevation at that time was 288.315 mad.

At 3 a.m. on Oct. 9, the dam was already releasing water at 3,072 cms. Water level at the reservoir was 289.65 mad.

The excess water overtopped dikes along the Agno River, eventually swelling rivers, causing a 7-kilometer breach in the dike along the Agno River at Barangay San Vicente in San Manuel and massive flooding in 38 towns and cities of Pangasinan.

The provincial government, farmers, business groups and concerned citizens said they would like a close tab applied SRMP and Napocor for the destruction.

Followed diligently

Malilin in a statement said the dam operators coordinated and "carried out diligently" instructions by Napocor managers and experts on water release.

"Napocor gave written instructions that were so specific that they included not only the time of the gate openings, but also the specific opening height of each gate to provide the release they required from the dam," he said.

"Unfortunately, toward the end of the storm, the San Roque Dam no longer had the capacity to absorb the unprecedented level of rainwater dumped by [Pepeng]."

Operation rule vs gov't policy

"There are two issues here," Meloncio said. "One is the basic operation rule of the San Roque Dam. The other is a local government policy, which takes precedence against utilities."

He said it was "very clear in the dam's basic operation rule that in the first 60 hours, water can already be released."

"So, when the rules start coming in heavily, you limit the rainfall so that this rainfall will not raise the water level to 280 [mad]," Meloncio said.

"We have a lot of criteria measurements, rain gauges in Mt. Sto. Tomas and Mt. Data along the Agno River. So, if you are a hydrologist, you should be able to interpret the rainfall and cumulative that," he said.

"There should be a management review of the capability of dam controllers. Do they know what they are doing?" he said.

Massive spill over 18 hours

Cabanegro said his investigation showed that the dam released for more than 18 hours 3,786 cms into the floodwater control system or dikes of the Agno River.

When added to the normal 1,000 cubic meters per second from each of the three tributary rivers system, he said the dikes were overwhelmed with more than twice the floodwater control system's capacity of 4,000 cubic meters per second.

"The water released greatly exceeded what the system was designed for so it's no wonder the whole of Binga[enan] was submerged in water," said Cojuangco, who noted that the dam operators should have released water in smaller volumes ahead of the storm's arrival.

'Lame excuse'

Cojuangco dismissed as a "lame excuse" the dam operators blaming the weather bureau's lack of equipment—Doppler radar—that would have advised them in advance of the amount of rainwater on incoming typhoon or storm.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) yesterday said the long-term solution to the flooding in Pangasinan was the decommissioning of the San Roque Dam.

"It appears the issuance of power generation 'was not' over public safety," Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes said in a statement. With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Gella B. Zaldarriaga

GMA forms commission to oversee rehab; MVP is chair

From page A1

she had signed an executive order creating the commission to undertake a study of the causes, costs and actions needed to be taken in the wake of Ondoy, Pepeng and last year's Typhoon "Frank."

The commission's other tasks is to look into the need to fund the reconstruction of roads, bridges and expressways damaged by flooding and landslides, she said.

"We want to save more grass rather than more loans because we still don't have a good debt-to-GDP (gross domestic product) ratio," she said.

Close to P30 billion

After Ondoy dumped rain that inundated Metro Manila and nearby provinces, Pepeng, which then entered the country as a typhoon and exited after making landfall for the third time as a depression, pummeled northern Luzon, triggering massive flooding and landslides.

The two weather disturbances left more than 800 people dead, and damage to infrastructure and agriculture estimated at close to P30 billion, according to the Office of Civil Defense.

The government has come under a storm of criticism over its slow and inadequate response to Ondoy, and has been asked to do a postmortem on the shortcomings of its rescue operations.

Pledging session

The commission is also tasked with prioritizing programs and their implementation, serving as a clearing house for reconstruction assistance, and requesting the United Nations and the World Bank to coordinate an international pledging session, according to Ms Arroyo.

LOST CROP A man tries to salvage rice crops damaged by massive flooding in Pulilan, Bulacan, on Tuesday. MARTY ZAMORA

The National Economic and Development Authority and Office of Civil Defense will serve as its secretariat, she added.

Salceda proposal

It was Albay Gov. Joey Salceda, an economic adviser to Ms Arroyo, who proposed the creation of the commission.

"Given the impact of the global crisis on our fiscal capacity versus the magnitude of calamity impact, the Philippines should seek fresh additional financing to $1 billion to fund reconstruction," Salceda said.

He said the special commission would operate like the Coordinating Council for the Philippine Assistance Plan (CCPAP) first headed by businessman Roberto Villanueva of MAP Inc.

The CCPAP has since evolved into the Coordinating Council for Private Sector Participation, which operates the Relief Operations Tracking Center under the Department of Trade and Industry.

Acting Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Augusto S. Tan, Jr. has agreed that the government should consult with urban planners, and "retrieve their advice so that the spillways of Metro Manila and other cities are preserved from clogging."

Exemption from election ban

Tetes, for his part, asked the Department of Justice if it were possible to exempt foreign aid money for rehabilitation projects from the election ban so as to accelerate the completion of the projects.

"Can we kindly check with [Justice Secretary] Agnes Devanadera in the law whether we can allow the fund we receive from the donor community to fund rehabilitation to be exempted from the election ban?" he said in the meeting.

Tetes later told reporters that if there was a legal basis for the exemption, at least "we can anticipate if these questions are raised by the potential donors. If not, we can go through the normal process."

Draining floodwaters

After relief and rehabilitation operations, the next tough task for the government would be draining the overlasting floodwaters in some areas in Metro Manila, Rizal, Laguna and other provinces.

"How do we drain all the floods not only in the NCR (National Capital Region) but also in Region 3," the Presidential spokesman said, saying, "I don't know what's the solution to the Laguna Lake. It has been drained but the water is still there."

Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. reported that a dike along the Marikina River, measuring 120 meters long and 5 meters high, had been completed despite an initial opposition from 14 families of informal settlers.

Informal settlers living along the waterway have been blamed for its clogging. The waterway drains into the Laguna Lake.

1977 master plan

Ms Arroyo then recalled that architect Felino "Pepe" Palafox had mentioned the 1977 master plan for the metropolis.

"Pepe Palafox stated to us that during Marcos' time, there was a master plan for the NCR in 1977. Let's look at it and see what's there," she said, stressing that the architect would be invited as a speaker at the next meeting.

Ms Arroyo told Efren Beyond Fernando of the Metro Manila Development Authority to check on the new version of him to clear the floodwaters in the metropolis. With a report from Ray M. Nassif, Inquirer Southern Luzon

'Pepeng' death toll now 311, says NDCC

By Alcuin Papa

THE DEATH TOLL FROM "PEPENG"—which entered the country as a typhoon and left it after 18 days as a tropical depression—has risen to 311, the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) said yesterday.

In its 6 a.m. report, the NDCC said 230 of the deaths occurred in the Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR) and were largely caused by landslides.

The rest of the fatalities were reported as victims of drowning, with 44 in the Bicol region, four in Central Luzon, one in Calabarzon and four in the Ilocos region.

The number of those injured totaled 182—121 in CAR, 47 in the Ilocos, and seven in Cagayan Valley.

The number of missing persons stands at 44, the NDCC said.

The destruction wrought by Pepeng was estimated at P7.1 billion, with damage to agriculture rising to P6.02 billion from Monday's P4 billion) and damage to infrastructure at P1.1 billion.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered all government agencies involved in disaster relief to monitor their operations, according to Lt. Gil. Ernesto Torres, the NDCC spokesperson.

Torres said that at 10 a.m. yesterday, a C-130 cargo plane left for Tuguegarao, Cagayan, carrying 500 sacks of rice, 5,000 food packs, 10,000 packs of used clothing, 5,000 blankets, 5,000 plastic mats, 5,000 sleep jugs, 2,000 towels, and 200 boxes of needles to be distributed to the devastated areas in the region.

EARTH'S WRATH Rescuers search for survivors and victims of a deadly landslide in Barangay Bayugan, La Trinidad, Benguet.

Headless but no longer nameless

Front page A1

office posted at Pugon Elementary School, where the recovered bodies were first taken for recording purposes, expressed the belief that a wife would be in the best position to identify any peculiar marks on her husband.

They asked for Pelalco's wife to identify the body. But Pelalco, a cab driver, was a bachelor.

It was the fingerprints that allowed a police team to establish that the corpse was indeed Pelalco's.

Second thoughts

At least 73 people died in the massive landslide that all but wiped out the municipality of Loacan, Itogon, Benguet.

Relatives gathered over Pelalco when what was thought to be his body was recovered along with those of his siblings Viola and Jess Dyla.

But according to his sister Divina, the began to have second thoughts when others claimed the body although they were also unsure of its identity.

Divina's doubts were fueled by the fact that two of her other brothers, Darwin and Colinda, were among the six missing persons that rescuers had been trying to find.

Pelalco's body was thus tagged as unidentified, and it lay unclaimed for three days.

Staff members of the La Trinidad health office, led by nurse Claire Pinero, went to the Pugon barangay hall and found that Pelalco was a registered voter.

 Old Trinidad, Pinero asked lawyer Bernard Bitay-an, the town's election officer, to open the Commission on Elections office at the town hall so they could check Pelalco's voter registration record.

The document showed that Pelalco had a mole on the neck. It carried his fingerprints as well.

Print match

Because the mole could not be found, Pinero sought police assistance to identify the body.

PO2 Wilmito Aung, a fingerprint examiner, took a sample of the corpse's fingerprints, compared these with the ones on Pelalco's voter registration record—and found a match.

But Pelalco's kin were not fully convinced, Pinero recalled.

Divina suggested a DNA examination. Pinero told her it was a costly procedure and that the family would have to shell out P20,000.

"She told them that a fee would have to be paid because it would be conducted as a private case. Had a crime been involved, it would be different," Pinero told the bereaved.

On Sunday, the Divinos met with police investigators.

Aung took pains to explain to the family that fingerprint analysis was one of the most reliable and scientifically approved means of establishing a person's identity.

"No two persons would have the same fingerprints," he said, finally convincing the Pelalcos.

Prayers from GMA

On a visit yesterday to Pugon Elementary School, President Macapagal-Arroyo prayed for Pelalco.

She consoled with the grieving families and then entered the classroom where Pelalco's body was being.

No one told the President that the body in the closed coffin was headless.

POLICEMEN prepare to take their lunch during a break in Sunday's retrieval operations, four days after landslides brought by continuing rains buried villages in La Trinidad, Benguet.

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IT'S A LONG, LONG ROAD Men, women and children hike for six hours through muddy roads and over hills carrying sacks of vegetables which they need to sell to buy food. Huge landslides blocked Kabayan Highway, the major route of trucks transporting vegetables from Atok, Bagulo, Mankayan, Baloan and Kibungan towns.

TREK TO MANILA People who could not wait for Baguio's where route roads to open hiked through the damaged Magalisan Road over the weekend. This batch of hikers made it over the mountains and on to Manila.

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All roads to Baguio now open

From page A1

...snow, and followed while his from noon to 6 p.m.

"This could be normalized in a week's time," Bolinao said.

Tropical Storm "Pepeng" pummeled northern Luzon for over a week, triggering heavy flooding and landslides and isolating Baguio, Benguet and other areas of the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

Road to Burgos

The Office of Civil Defense said the death toll from Pepeng reached 209 as of yesterday, including 146 who perished in landslides that hit the communities of Little Kibungan and Bonga-an in La Trinidad and other Benguet towns.

During the meeting of the Cabinet and National Disaster Coordinating Council at the public school, Mr Arroyo also ordered the clearing within three days of Halsema Highway, which connects Baguio with the Mountain Province and the rest of the provinces in the CAR.

"Romulo Road is already open. We have to open Halsema Highway so that northern Benguet, Mt. Province are accessible," she said. "I think there's a route in La Union, Benguet? It's isolated. So we have to clear the road to Burgos."

Forced evacuation

Ms Arroyo also reminded the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council to implement "forced evacuation" in flooded areas in view of the rising cases of acute bowel diseases.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque reported that government hospitals were "full of cases of leptospirosis," a waterborne disease that can cause death.

"Leptospirosis is the main challenge to us. In the last two weeks, it rose by 370 percent, and our hospitals are filled leptospirosis cases," he said.

In nationwide and evacuation centers, 50 percent of the recorded ailments had to do with acute respiratory tract infection; 20 percent, skin infection; 18 percent, diarrhea; 10 percent febrile illness, and influenza-like illness, 1 percent, he said.

After the relief operations, Ms Arroyo said the police should be deployed to subdivisions to watch over homes of calamity victims.

"The people don't want to leave their endangered homes because they're afraid of looters. You have to have police guarding communities. They might be better used to guarding the community so the people can leave. We have so many volunteers. We need police to guard homes," she said.

Choppers to be used

In la Trinidad, Benguet, Trade Secretary Peter Favila said the government was giving priority to the delivery of goods and basic needs to the Cordillera area via air, food shortages. He said Philippine Air Force helicopters will be used to ferry supplies to isolated towns. US Chinook helicopters were also on stand by to assist.

"Our top priority now is to bring food and supplies here the sooner should Halsema Highway remain closed," Favila told the local officials.

Favila accompanied Ms Arroyo as Pagsanjan Elementary School here where she consoled with the families of victims of a landslide that buried Little Kibungan, a community in Barangay Pugalo. (See related story on Page A1.)

Ms Arroyo gave P15,000 each to 26 families as financial assistance. The Department of Social Welfare and Development said a total of P500,000 was released. She also led the distribution of 884 packs of blanket, 500 food packs and 170 water jugs to storm victims. With reports from Jaymar Cariño, Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

HOME RELIEF Philippine Daily Inquirer employees and other volunteers distribute relief goods to flood victims in Barangay San José, Dinalupi, Bataan. NOEL ALTOVEROS

PDI expands typhoon relief drive to Pangasinan

THE EXPANDED INQUIRER RELIEF DRIVE has begun reaching out, not only to victims of Tropical Storm "Ondoy," but also to victims of Tropical Storm "Pepeng," with 1,000 families in Barangays Poblacion Zone 1 and San Rita in Urdaneta, Pangasinan, as the latest beneficiaries.

Volunteers from the Inquirer yesterday distributed relief packages to 500 families in San Shoe, and 500 families in Poblacion Zone 1. The relief packs included rice, canned goods and water. About 200 blankets were also given away.

"We really can see how they were ravaged by the flood," said Magi Garcia of Inquirer Corporate Affairs, who came in Manila on their three-tailed goods with 15 other Inquirer volunteer employees.

"Though the floodwaters have subsided, the barangays still have the signs of the tragedy. Debris from damaged walls still littered the streets," she said.

Latest donations to the relief drive included the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which gave 100 cartons of rice and 100 cartons of canned goods for victims of Pepeng. This was on top of the organization's previous donation of $50,000 for victims of Ondoy. Ateneo Law Office donated blankets.

Since Sept. 26, the Inquirer relief drive has reached out to roughly 10,000 families in flood-affected areas of Pasig, Quezon City and Marikina in Metro Manila, and the provinces of Bulacan and Laguna.

The Inquirer is still accepting donations for relief missions for Ondoy and Pepeng storms scheduled in the coming days, including one in Cagayan.

Donors may send relief goods to the Inquirer's main office at 1006 Chino Roces Ave. in Makati.

Goods may also be dropped off on weekdays at the following Inquirer-classified ad branches: G/F Atrium Building on Makati Avenue in Makati; 3/F Building B, Ilaf Megamall on Edsa in Mandaluyong; G/F Trinity Building on Rizal Avenue in Manila; and St. Anthony's Building on Aurora Boulevard in Cubao, Quezon City.

All McDonald's and 7-Eleven branches in Metro Manila, as well as selected Cebuana Lhuillier outlets and the SM's relief center on Pioneer Street in Mandaluyong are also accepting donations.

Cash donations

Monetary contributions may also be deposited with PSBank account No. 111-112002000 for peso deposits and PSBank Account No. 111-112000158 for dollar deposits under the account name "Inquirer Ondoy Relief Drive."

PSBank has opened more options for Philippine donors abroad by enabling themselves of free fund transfers online at www.pesonet.bsnk.com.ph.

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Survey: Incidence of hunger down

By Jenny Al

The average hunger rate over the past 11 years.1998 said.

The 2009 3rd Quarter 2009 survey, conducted from Sept. 18 to 21 and released yesterday, found that hunger in the country had declined to 17.5 percent (or about 3.2 million families), from 20.2 percent (3.7 million families) in June.

The survey was conducted before Tropical Storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" ravaged Luzon.

"Hunger has consistently been in double-digits for over five years, since June 2006. The latest hunger figure is 5 percentage points above the 11-year average of 12.5 percent," SWS said.

Questions

Survey questions about household hunger were directed to the household head, using the phrase "nakaranas ng gutom at wala kayong makain" ("experienced hunger, and did not have anything to eat").

The decline by 2 percentage points in overall hunger resulted from a 1.5-point decline in moderate hunger, and a 1.3-point decline in severe hunger.

"Moderate hunger," or those who experienced hunger "only once" or "a few times" in the last three months, went down from 16 percent (2.9 million families) in June to 14.5 percent (2.7 million families) in September.

The latest figure is 0.5 percentage point above the 11-year average moderate hunger of 9.9 percent.

"Severe hunger," or those who suffered hunger "often" or "always" in the last three months, went down from 4.3 percent (about 790,000 families) in June to 3 percent (550,000 families) in September. The new figure is below the 11-year average severe hunger rate of 3.4 percent.

Except Metro Manila

Overall hunger declined in all areas, except Metro Manila.

It dropped by more than 4-percentage points in Mindanao, from 30 percent (about 1.6 million families) in June to 18.7 percent (850,000 families) in September.

It declined by 2 percentage points in the Visayas, from 22 percent (about 715,000 families) to 18 percent (700,000 families), and by almost 1 percentage point in the rest of Luzon, from 14.3 percent (1.2 million families) to 13.3 percent (1.1 million families).

In Metro Manila, however, hunger increased by more than 2 percentage points, from 11.3 percent (320,000 families) to 13.7 percent (400,000 families).

Moderate hunger declined in Mindanao by almost 9 percentage points, from 25.1 percent in the previous quarter to 16.7 percent.

In the Visayas, moderate hunger fell by almost 3 percentage points from 18.7 percent to 15.1 percent.

It rose by almost 4 percentage points in Metro Manila, from 15.0 percent to 19.0 percent, and by a point in the rest of Luzon, from 13.2 percent to 13.3 percent.

"The latest moderate hunger rates are higher than their 11-year averages for all areas," SWS said.

Severe hunger

Severe hunger declined by 2 percentage points in the rest of Luzon, from 4.2 percent in June to 2.2 percent in September, also by 2 percentage points in Mindanao, from 6.7 percent to 3.0 percent, and by more than a percentage point in Metro Manila, from 7.0 percent to 5.7 percent.

It rose by almost 4 percentage points in the Visayas, from 2.3 percent in the previous quarter to 5.6 percent.

"The new severe hunger rates are now lower than their 11-year averages for all areas except in Metro Manila, where the latest score of 5.7 percent is higher than its 11-year average of 5.4 percent," SWS said.

The latest SWS survey was conducted using in face-to-face interviews of 1,000 adults divided into random samples of 300 each in Metro Manila and Mindanao, and 400 each in the rest of Luzon and the Visayas.

It had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.3 percentage points for national percentages, plus or minus 6 percentage points for Metro Manila and Mindanao, and plus or minus 4 percentage points for the rest of Luzon and the Visayas. — Elino Victoria, Inquirer Research

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OPINION

Sacrificial lambs

AHEAD OF THE CONVENING OF THE LEGISLATIVE-Executive Development Advisory Council on Thursday, President Macapagal-Arroyo has signed an executive order setting up a Special National Public-Private Reconstruction Commission to serve as a "clearing house" for international assistance for the victims of typhoons "Onday" and "Yoyong." The special commission will be composed of bureaucrats and representatives from the private sector. Trimbled as chair was Manuel V. Pangilinan of PLDT, with Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal as co-chairs.

EDITORIAL

The Arroyo administration has been trying for some time to deflect allegations of inefficiency and corruption in public contracts by drafting the clergy and members of the private sector to disinfectants for its efforts. We do not doubt the civic sense and patriotism of those who consented to serve in the various commissions and committees created by the President to involve the private sector in developing plans—and implementing them—but what we do doubt is the wisdom of creating such hybrid bodies in the first place.

Politically speaking, it blurs the line of accountability when it is government that must be held responsible for its functions. Embedding the private sector, whether members of the clergy, businessmen, or NGO representatives, in the supervision of government projects only serves to deflect scrutiny or, worse, to camouflage actual shortcomings. The participation of the archbishop of Cebu, for example, is only useful if officialdom actually expects the prelate to act in some sort of magical talisman to ward off evil. Otherwise, it represents a dangerous blurring of the separation of Church and State.

Pinglalosa's presence is more defensible. But it brings up the question of potential conflicts of interest, since among the disaggrieved infrastructure are railways operated by the Metro Pacific conglomerate. Both the cardinal and the telecom executive would have been more useful in an investigative commission with a permanent advisory mandate as we have been proposing for some time. As reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts become subsumed into the election-year priorities of the administration, it is entirely possible that private sector participants in the President's commission will end up having to take the blame for not being channeled to administration bailiwicks.

The story of Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro and the rubber boats, as reported by Newsbreak, is instructive. According to the story by Aries Rufo, last Feb. 6, the Office of Civil Defense urged Teodoro to authorize the immediate purchase of rubber boats for rescue and relief operations, in anticipation of the typhoon season. This was in response to the severe floods experienced throughout the country last year. Many flood-prone areas identified by the National Disaster Coordinating Council lacked rubber boats, and existing supplies of rubber boats had already been found unfit.

Teodoro was presented with a proposal to purchase 50 rubber boats with outboard motors at P1 million each. He set aside recommendations to purchase the boats by means of negotiated contracts and said they should be procured through public bidding. The defense chief asked, sensibly, why a transparent bidding process couldn't be accomplished within four months, to the best of the knowledge of those lobbying for a negotiated contract that public bidding would ensure it would take eight months to procure the boats.

What is instructive about this story is that the defense secretary will pay the political price for the inefficiency of the government procurement system, a price usually swept by an bureaucrats try to dodge public anger over their meager response to the twin calamities of Onday and Yoyong. Teodoro seemed to do the right thing, but the right thing had a direct impact on the government's being overwhelmed by disasters.

It is not too late for the President to reconsider her options and establish a proper investigative commission, and to rethink, furthermore, the official calculations of the costs of the twin tragedies.

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One cause of floods: squatters

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

WHY DO THE FLOODWATERS IN CAGAYAN, Marikina, Pasig, and other low-lying areas rise? Why does Laguna Lake refuse to go away despite the fact that it has stopped raining and the sun is shining hot? Because the drainage pipes are like hell's too undersized for the garbage: plastic bags, styrofoam, plastic cups and plates, etc. These are the trash that last residents cover, usually clung into cavities, cracks, drains, and waterways. Were these trash have come back to haunt them.

Unlike organic waste that degrades in days, non-biodegradable waste doesn't decay, leading water courses it to drainage pipes and stop them. And then it will stay forever unless unclogged. The water removed from into Manila Bay did so it backs up into the streets and houses, carrying with it mud, pieces of trash, and disease.

How do we prevent this from happening again and again? This was the subject of last Monday's forum on Metropolitan Manila with Mayor Alfredo Lim and City Hall officials (an engineer in charge of pumping water out of low areas and a police official in charge of garbage collection and disposal) exchanging chats with Montalvo, Jr. Atty. Ruffy Biazon and Jun Ebdane of the Movement for the Restoration of Peace.

They all agreed that when the squatters return to their homes beside the waterways, the whole operation will start all over again. They agreed that local governments should relocate the squatters, but didn't come out and have done.

Relocate them where? In some god-forsaken place far from their areas of livelihood so that the squatters will, in time, sell their homes to non-squatters and go back to squatting?

Worse, the city cheap has rewarded squatters almost some settlers from the provinces to come to the cities and squat there. In spite of billions of pesos spent and in promise of land allotted for relocation of squatters, these informal settlers increase instead of decrease.

Then there are the GOP officials themselves, from barangay officials to members of congress, who coddle squatters. Try to relocate a squatter colony and these officials come out of their air-conditioned offices like angry bees to protect and grandstand in front of the squatters.

Why do they do this? Because the squatters are voters. In fact, in many cases, it was the politicians themselves who brought in the squatters to vote for them. Barangay officials also make money out of them by collecting fees or rent from them for the right to squat on a piece of land (belonging to some hapless absentee or clerk).

To stop this irresponsible Lim suggested that they not be allowed to vote in places where they are squatting. "We will not deprive them of the right to vote," he said. "but they have to vote where they came from." If Nora and Mars were made to go back to Bedalizon, where they came from, for the reason, who will protect the squatters?

Another irresponsible practice cited at the forum of the Department of Public Works and Highways is pay each squatter at least P15,000 to get out of the right-of-way of a road like EDSA to construct there. This has been practiced for a century by Lim since the 1970s and that those who squat after the census would not be entitled to relocation or the payment of any amount. But just to make things worse, the DPWH pays overprices in the way it is now under construction of the Skyway.

The DPWH policy gives an incentive to squat. When people have that a road is about to be built they flock to the road right of way, expecting to be paid for their shanties. Some build their houses of hollow blocks and then haggle with the DPWH for a higher "disturbance fee."

For their own convenience, the DPWH says. Anyway, it is not its money it is spending; it is the people's money.

After getting his money, the squatter goes to another lot and squats there, and the whole process is repeated. Some professional squatters have moved so many times and earned hundreds of thousands of pesos not from squatting. That is why we can never move any squatters with the present policies. The government itself gives this squatter the incentive to violate the laws against squatting.

The squatters said that the laws themselves—the Lina law and the law decriminalizing squatting—proposed and passed by legislators coddling squatters, encourage squatting. Squatting has become many times worse since these two laws were enacted, they said.

Still another irony is that the courts are encouraging squatting. Because of the very slow wheels of justice, a simple apartment case against a squatter who has no means at all to the property can take some years, during which time the squatter stays on the property as if he owned it and the owner spends hundreds of thousands of pesos for lawyer's fees.

The courts and the Bar should not be supposed to protect the property of taxpayers. That's the least they can do in exchange for the time the citizens pay that go to the salaries of the policemen and city officials and employees. But just try to get them help when you catch a squatter removing the doors of your apartment.

The police will insist that you file a case in court and won't stop him from stealing his doors or somebody else's property. And City Hall will call a meeting, maybe a month later, between the owner and the squatter. Most likely, the meeting will never materialize, so the squatter will not show up and the owner will be told by City Hall to come back again and again. During that time, the squatter will have finished constructing his house, and the lot owners cannot no longer evict him without a court order.

Assurances

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

THE ONE THING I KEEP BEING ASKED IN forums by Filipinos you encounter abroad is whether they will not go the route of the others.

The one answer I keep giving when asked that question is: Why can't we create anything? But I've changed. Step by step of course, give me time to my hope.

The first is that even before Newsbreak announced his decision to run, he's shot up past the others. Completely spontaneously, completely effortless. Which astounded even me. (I thought he'd do it, but more gradually.) Clearly the overdose of "the coming of the opposite of 2004" had been doubling its people's stomach for a long time.

The good news there for us, quite apart from the Hegrey range, is this: Hegrey needs, or requires, the functional efficacy of decision, which is spending a staggering billion to get elected. Either candidates are their own money, if they are staggeringly rich, or they depend on the oligarchs for staggering donations to their campaign. Either way it cannot wiggle itself for the Office of the National Treasury. Only the person who becomes president does so by pursuing the family power or depending on the kindness of strangers or both. History—especially Philippine history—has yet to record a candidate who divested himself and his friends, or cronies, of wealth for the staggering pleasure of serving the people.

If Hegrey's numbers hold—and I think we are—this is an Edsa resurgencing in an election—he will become president without being beholden to the usual suspects. That frees him to formulate policies that can be good for the country and not for the usual suspects. He will be beholden only to the people, not to those who oppose them.

That is of course no guarantee he will do right by the people. History, especially Philippine history, is full of leaders who went beholden to the people and betrayed them only by screwing the people. We do not have to look far, we've had one for the last nine years. This was a person who took on the back of People Power but dedicated herself afterward only to spiting the very thing she owed. Subversive "engrossful" for "fuck" and foul-tolerable descriptions of her opponents aren't necessarily accurate.

What's to guarantee Noynoy won't do otherwise? Well, there's Noynoy himself. He is not the "opposite of GMA" for nothing. The opposite of being an ungrateful SOB is being a grateful SOB. Control a Cory's.

The more importantly, there's us, the people.

Nothing else can guarantee it. We are not secure in our governance, we will never have the leader we deserve. Or we will lose exactly the one we do. A people who do not particularly care if they are screwed will always have leaders who will screw them. Either by the leader's outsized inclination or the bad Cosmic outlook universe.

The political culture of this country sucks. It is a culture that naturally promotes corruption and helps disadvantages. It is a culture that overrides the best of instincts and even, at times, the very point cop. How to prevent it? By lowering ourselves to prevent it.

It's not in our nature but to ourselves that we are underdogs. Newsbreak is that time that is our political life.

Take the case of corruption. Boniface there is no more reason for it, not least of them psychological, or pathological. Some people are just horrendous pits of greed, and some are more horrendous than others. But you look at it a little more closely and you realize that the most fundamental reason for corruption is that we tolerate it.

This has been my favorite argument for years. Clearly we do feel revulsion for people who steal, as soon for the way we swear pickpockets, bumbling students, and other petty thieves in sidewalks and Jeep. Even black and blue. Why don't we do the same thing to crooks in government? The only explanation I can think of is that we don't see what they do as stealing.

Rather the same they police are too huge for us to grasp, they are taking on an air of abstraction, quite unlike the quite graphic grabbing of a boy's schoolbag, or those cases are things we attribute to those anyway. Both are true, the latter especially. Personally but more concept of "stagnancy" money. "My share of the cause our poor—and all of us do pay it, especially if indirectly, through VAT—not as our money but as their money. It is tribute we give to our liege. If the state's coffers back it is not the fault of a road or bridge, we are happy. If they do not we say, what else is new?

The Filipino has a resignation, fatalistic bent. He floods, and that is why it does not in Europe and the US. He do not see taxes as our money, they do. We do not see the hijacking of taxpayers' money as stealing, they do.

The freedom of change does not just lie in our self-interest. It lies in the mind. The beginning of change is recognition, the driving force of change is discovery. We start realizing taxes are our money, and our officials start thinking twice about misusing them.

We must realize we the only ones who can guarantee our freedom, our future. Our leaders are not entirely deserving. We do have a capacity to act. We do have a capacity to put our fate in our hands. Look how we responded to disaster, completely collectively pulverizing any notion to reach out to the victims. Look how we respond to earthquakes and floods by digging the earth frantically and pointing places God forgot to ensure the trapped and hungry. Look at the way we respond to floods and mudslides, braving the odds to bring relief goods to the ravaged and help them build again. This is People Power at its best. This is People Power as everyday life. This is just a matter of realizing we're the ones who can give ourselves relief.

It's just a matter of realizing we're the only ones who can give ourselves relief.

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Next administration inherits huge task

THE DESTRUCTION WROUGHT BY THE TWO killer storms, "Ondoy" and Pepeng," during the past two months may easily rank them as the most disruptive calamities ever to hit the country in 40 years.

The cost in human lives, infrastructure damage and crop losses that have happened in their wake by people were killed in landslides and flooding in Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Northern Luzon, including Benguet, La Union, Mt. Province, particularly Baguio City. According to the National Disaster Coordinating Council, the number of families displaced by the two typhoons has increased to 826,486 families or 4 million people. Government officials estimate the total damage at P3 billion, including P1.5 billion in agricultural losses.

The storms unmasked the appalling inadequacy of the government services in providing relief to the affected population and in evacuating people from flooded areas. Then also unmasked the government's unpreparedness to cope with such a scale of human calamity.

Calamities of such magnitude have consequences that span the passage of government now in transition, since the disaster took place in the transition, almost two months before the May 2010. The deluge struck as the country faced a general election. The onset of the massive failure of the disaster relief infrastructure of the government has fallen heavily on the Arroyo administration—a criticism it visibly deserves, although it is also true that no one can control the heavy volume of rainfall in the week of Sept. 26-30 and it has sought concession setup behind the cupola tower that most of the blame should be laid on the effects of climate change.

The next government inherits the huge task of rebuilding the destroyed public works, the restoration of broken dams and irrigation systems, and producing food in flooded fields, and resettling families who have lost their homes to underwater. The rehabilitation and rebuilding of the devastated areas will take much longer than the

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

ensuing months of the incumbent administration.

In an assessment of the financial cost of rehabilitation, Sen. Alfredo Angara, chair of the Senate committee, said the rebuilding of public buildings, roads and irrigation destroyed by the two storms would require "more resources than we have now." The country may need at least P30 billion to rehabilitate the damage, in addition to the P1.451 billion proposed national budget for 2010, he said. About P40 billion might be needed for the long-term rehabilitation of devastated areas.

Angara said he believed the government had enough resources for the "immediate and urgent" relief of the disaster victims. The government could source this relief fund from the proposed P38 billion supplemental budget, the P11 billion emergency lending facility of the Social Security System, the Government Service Insurance System and Pag-Ibig, and the 35 billion assistance from foreign nations.

In the order of priority efforts to reorder dislocated victims, the World Bank, which works with governments in the coordination of disaster relief, warned against returning them to areas not suitable to sustaining disasters. "We have found that reconstruction starts on day one," said Abhas Jha, disaster risk management coordinator for the World Bank's East Asia and Pacific region. "The biggest task is that land decisions are get locked in early on."

"If people are living in an unsafe area and their houses are destroyed, for example, it is important to make sure that they rebuild their homes in less vulnerable places," he said. "No one can control natural hazards like storms and earthquakes, but a well planned reconstruction can prevent people from living in the flood plains for building houses that are unsafe. We are not just responding to disasters, we are also working in communities and governments to ensure that lives and livelihoods are better protected in case of another disaster."

Apart from declining a state of national calamity, the government was forced by the flooding to start this month the purchase of 250,000 tonnes of rice to make for some of the 1.5 million hectares lands across Central and Northern Luzon. The storms damaged 330,629 metric tons of palay in 165,000 hectares of farm lands.

The Agriculture Department assured that there was sufficient rice stock to last for the rest of the year. It said the country only harvested 5.37 million MT of rice in the first quarter of 2009 (nearly 16 percent off the target of 6.4 million MT), but Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said that "even if we don't harvest this quarter, we have two months worth of stock. And since we still harvest, that's good enough for another 104 days."

The National Food Authority said the country had 2.278 million MT of rice—enough for 63 days' consumption.

The biggest rice importer in the world, the Philippines has on his imported 1.775 million MT of rice this year, but the bulk of the imports will be imported next year. The additional rice will be imported from Thailand, Vietnam, Pakistan, Australia, United States and India. The rice shipments are scheduled to arrive in January until April next year.

The rice imports are short term measures to meet any shortages during the last months of 2009 in the midst of an election next year. It does not help achieve the government's policy of food security and rice self-sufficiency, an objective that has been set back by the storms.

Special needs in a time of disaster

WOMEN ARE DIFFERENT FROM MEN, AND children are not just little adults.

This seems a most logical, commonsensical idea, and yet, in the midst of response, relief and rehabilitation, why do so many people, do genders and well-meaning individuals, among them, seem to forget these distinctions?

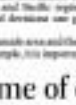
Then, in the immediate aftermath of a disaster, such as that following the floods of "Ondoy" and those days while the people of Northern Luzon grapple with post-"Pepeng" challenges, all relatively obvious need basically the same things: clean water, food, clothing, shelter, and, after a few days, and temporary shelter. But in the days after, it becomes fairly obvious that individuals, especially women and children, have unique and special needs, and that it would only be fair for different, individual specific responses and provisions to consider these needs along with the more common necessities.

Take for instance sanitary napkins, which are not usually part of the normal "aid package" but are definitely a necessity for women in the days after an inundation, by no other items considered part of "female hygiene." In fact, a friend of mine working with Muslim women "bakwits" in one area of Metropolitan Manila says that preserving one's dignity and self-esteem is important to restore normalcy for many women. That is the reason her NGO's typical aid package includes a mahjong, which serves as a woman's (and man's) blanket, change of clothes and even temporary clothes.

* * *

POST-ONDOY, the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (FPOP) and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), in coordination with local government units, are distributing more than 10,000 "hygiene kits" to pregnant women as well various reproductive health kits for more than 10,000 individuals.

The Minimum Initial Service Package for Reproductive Health (MISP) program, says the FPOP press release, is an inter-agency response aiming to prevent and manage the consequences of sexual violence, reduce HIV transmission, prevent maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity, and develop strategies for comprehensive



AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

zero reproductive health services in a period of emergency.

Roberto Ines, FPOP executive director, says that "more than the need for food and other basic necessities, hygiene and maternal and child health care is an equally important need that should be addressed."

In an article written for Agence France Presse, Ines described a scene in one of the evacuation centers in Cainta, where Marilou Israel, 24, lay delivering a baby boy, her sixth child, "with the unkeening smell of newly pushed-out baby floating in the window."

The small building where Cora gave birth stood beside a covered basketball court housing nearly 600 homeless flood victims. She was among the more than 14,000 pregnant women "scattered in hundreds of cramped evacuation centers in Manila and surrounding provinces," writer Ines wrote, citing estimates gathered by the UNFPA.

With more than 200,000 people in need of basic supplies, said Jeanette Habberjam of the UNFPA, "pregnant women have been largely overlooked."

Without adequate health care, said Habberjam, the women and their babies could die. The library is fraught with risks, even in the best of circumstances, but more so in the midst of the special challenges inherent in giving birth in a setting like an evacuation center, which lacks even the most basic of sanitation facilities, not to mention the privacy a woman wants and deserves. In Cainta, for instance, of the 18 health centers existing before Ondoy struck, only three remained operational after the floods.

* * *

THERE ARE other special gender-specific needs. Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral was quoted in this paper decrying the "inhumane" behavior of some evacuees who were caught posing on public school classrooms after their public schools opened for classes.

Some evacuees had refused to leave the schools, saying their homes were no longer habitable. And then they were not only disrupting classes with their presence, but causing damage to the facilities students, victims of Ondoy like them.

I wonder how many of such instances involved not just thievery or extortion, but outright violence, including rape and molestation?

Does anyone have the thought for the safety of women in the evacuation centers, especially in common bathrooms or in the dark, garbage-strewn school yards? Is there an effort to provide protection, including well-lit bathrooms and foot patrols?

I might add, too, that in such a situation many proxy contraceptives should be made available, if only for the peace of mind of the victims.

* * *

TO FOR children, the secretariat of Pilipina has focused its efforts working with 200 children in Dominoza Village, Barangay Bagong Silangan, the worst hit area in Quezon City. The group makes a special appeal for the school children's welfare, since they, unlike the adult evacuees, were all washed away by the flood. Donations of pad paper (Grades 1-3), pencils, spring notebooks for high school students, ball pens and mathematics are especially welcome.

Aside from the relief goods, reports Beth Tang, Pilipina executive director, they have added books, underwear and multi-mixes the residents say. Dami ara items they need but which other relief operations do not provide.

"Medical supplies are also very much needed, such as their damaged homes, so Pilipina is making a special appeal to conditioner and businesses for unusable ice sacked Linipinhas to serve as temporary walls for protection from the elements. "Medical supplies are also very much needed, as part of our mobilizable items," notes Tang. Construction materials would likewise be welcome, especially for the community's ruined day care center.

Prison life for Mabini

OVER THE WEEKEND, GMA-7's JESSICA SOHO interviewed people with alternative methods to health. Some of them are into drinking your urine daily for health and fitness. There was the medical doctor who swears by a high-fat, choles-terol-rich diet that earned him the nickname "Dr. Bulalo" because he prescribes enjoying the fatty parts of beef bone marrow and entire soup and consuming more than three eggs daily.

There is a food show on TV, sponsored by supplements, that insists that monosodium glutamate or MSG is actually good for the health! In those days of "fitness" worship, gym memberships, diet and food supplements, one cannot tell whom to believe because everyone has equal cure to sell.

I have lived long enough to have been told at some point in my life that coffee was bad and that one should not eat an egg a day, only to find a few years back, coffee was suddenly in the drink of choice and eggs inside had to be minimized to three per week. Now it's back to one egg daily, but coffee is still off-limits.

Typhoons are always recommended for good health and well-being, so I was surprised to hear a man repeatedly screaming on radio, "Ang baho-baho! Subukin ngili blood! Ang galing subukin ngili blood!" I presumed he was just another fad diet, until I listened to the commercial and discovered that the man was ranting about the high price of vegetables after the storm and the floods that damaged crops. Worse, roads up north were under water, washed away by floods or simply rendered impassable. Drivers of everyday necessities have shot through the roof, some three or four times their prices before "Ondoy" and "Pepeng."

Visiting the supermarket after Ondoy was no exception. Usually Monday or tuesday is a wonderful time to shop, because there are no lines at the check-out counter, but this time it was full. The shelves that once contained instant noodles and canned meat like Filipino favorites Spam, Vienna sausage, corned beef, Spanish sardines, tuna, etc., were empty. The big difference from then to that while some people were panic buying and stocking up for the next disaster, there was a lot of "relief buying" going on too and much of the noodles and canned goods bought were donated to victims of the typhoons.

The present prices of vegetables and the canned meat flying off supermarket shelves reminded me of Apolinario Mabini in exile in Guam. He was bored with prison life but tried to make the best of it and entertained by writing his memoirs, later known as "La Revolucion Filipina." And in it that that everyone will finds astounding, he wrote on he the American prison watches the entire "Estados el Lauro" from memory!

Mabini was treated well, partly due to his high rank in the Malolos government and partly due to his position. It is not well known that he was accompanied in exile by his elder brother Prudencio.

Other revolutionaries brought along relatives, and even servants, to make prison life more bearable. I was astounded that a decade ago, ethnomedical speaker was installed on a pic in Asia, a walking distance to Aguas, capital of Hanoi, where the prisoner once stood. From the place of exile, Mabini wrote his brother Prudencio on March 24, 1902 that given an an idea of their daily life:

"Our life here runs quietly and monotonously, without great joys or anxieties, which is, of course, only natural in a prison. We try to comfort ourselves with the thought that such situation in life has its seasons and that there are many other persons more weighed down with sufferings than ours."

"One of our worries is the question of food. We are given plenty of flour, rice, coffee and sugar of good quality, for which we are very grateful, but from the time of our arrival here (January 1901) we have had no fresh vegetables, except a few specimens of which we are not only fed up but sick as well. Since last November, I could no longer take canned meat, because it gives me nausea and makes me vomit, an ailment which I contract at dinner to my great and richly comical delight, because the same thing happens to my companion, easy to the most robust of them.

"Fortunately this silence is disappearing from the time the prisoners obtained authorization to go to Agana every day to purchase what they require of provisions and exercise. I suffered very little, thanks to the resources I brought with me, which I try to economize as much as possible. I encouraged others to buy for me fresh meat, chickens, eggs, etc., and I succeeded in this regard. On the other hand, we also receive boxes sent from the commissary from time to time..."

Mabini was not ill-treated in captivity. He was supervised by his captors and no one was only wonder what kind of prisoner they were to him. Was it a good friend? Were those canned meats beyond the "self before" or worse, "consumer before" days? How long can people live on a steady diet of canned food?

We don't know if anyone that Mabini was poor, and yet he had some "resources" on him that allowed him to purchase fresh food.

Prisons life in Guam can explain why Mabini was so happy to be back home in Manila, back to fresh food, fresh air, and, I must say, back to the bliss of being in principal (as tainted unpasteurized carabao milk) but soothed in cholera and his death.

Comments are welcome at rsjimenez@inquirer.com.ph

Festive, frenzied

"ONDOY" AND "PEPENG" BROUGHT BACK UNBEARABLE memories of typhoon Ursing and in San Juan to signal typhoons. It was then a small sleepy town, part of Rizal Province, and the news came out of the municipio or town hall.

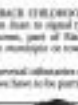
Much of San Juan is low lying, with several tributaries of the Pasig running through the town, as we have to be particularly vigilant to any typhoons. The first alarm our family had was on a street called Kinetely. We had terrible floods there, and we knew the family somewhere during typhoon still go back to a particular area where the water inundated the first floor and half of the second. My father took down the doors of our rooms, propped it on chairs so that we can get to the second floor and myself, household helpers and our deathbed Aetna. We were in constant touch with our next-door neighbor, shouting across the windows offering help—and need support.

I don't think another typhoon talked about typhoons entering the "Philippine area of responsibility" in that time, but we knew from the stories that it got windier, the pitter-patter seemed to roam so that while the other seemed mild, they were bound to worsen. Then we'd get that calm before the storm, and here, the pitter-patter sounded almost like mournful wailing, urging people to go home and prepare.

When the rains finally fell, the storm would continue, this time not to stop for hours, and we were to prepare. Even as very young children, we could feel the sense of urgency in the rains intensified, you could barely hear the storm, but that made them all the more ominous. And then the storm would stop, and we knew the typhoon was nearing.

Pinoy Kasi

Michael L. Tan



Risk awareness

Today, the storm (and its other phases, church bells) would probably be less morbid amid urbanization's din. But I do feel we still need some way not just to signal storms but to create a sense of urgency and immediacy.

The sociologist Anthony Giddens proposed that "risk" is a product of modernity. In modern societies, people can think of risks with a long time period as the horizon. That is more difficult in premodern societies like the town I grew up in. Author Ernesto Escasa asked me to mark off Easter of 2011 for a conference they planned to hold in the Philippines and requested me to help look for a venue. I agreed to help, but did tell her I couldn't even think of what my life would be like in 2030.

We live day to day, and ironically, this is partly because we are so distant poor. Our existence is, to use the English philosopher John Gibbs' description of life in the 18th century, "short, nasty and brutish" and in such circumstances, it's difficult to talk to people about the risk of something happening in the future, even if the future is next week.

Attempts to communicate risk, especially in times of risk communications, commissioned by the World Health Organization, I spoke specifically on Filipino concepts of health and illness, and how "risk" is an terribly counter. Just look at how people react when they're told that the tsunami has no warnings about the possibility of death from that certainty.

We don't respond to risk as we do to danger, which is what we feel immediate danger. And this is where we need warning systems that can highlight the sense of urgency. We see some of that with Pepeng, helped along by reminders of Ondoy's destructiveness.

I want to emphasize that four stories have limited usefulness, having short-term effects. They are effective for anti-litter/anti-smoking campaigns around Save Tree's Day, but that's the extent the warnings are short-term. The Department of Health starts flashing the photographs of bloodied victims with ensuing fingers around cars months before New Year and it does make people think. But if the DOH started the warnings, say, in the first week of December, people would tune out the messages and the hue disappears.

Typhoons come and go in a fairly short time span, which is ideal for highlighting a sense of emergency and instilling a bit of fear, without sending people into panic. Ultimately, we are into meltdown, which right now is aided unduly and sadly by a typhoon fan parade. I actually think that it's worth, AFTER the typhoon, capitalizing on the media tragedies and suffering and wish they would put more energy into pro-typhoon preparations.

Signal 10!

A few years back I wrote about being caught in Hong Kong during a typhoon, and how impressed I was with their 3-level warning system with numbers 1 to 3 for pre-typhoon warnings, then jumps to 8, 9, 9 and 10. Psychologically, level 8 does have more impact than signal 1 or 2, as we do in the Philippines. Even department stores flash warnings, together with prescribed actions for each level, for example, with signal 2, you're supposed to secure all loose objects, and check your windows for any breakages. With signal 3, recommended action is to park your car in a safe place.) There's also a phased closure of establishments: first the schools, then offices and shops. Amid regular programming, radio and TV would flash warnings as well. Over all, people can find the urgency, but the urgency levels are not paralyzing.

Our broadcast networks should be mobilized for such a system. And instead of offers of fragrance, our mobile phone providers should be sending out typhoon alerts, and offering numbers to call for weather information, and emergency assistance.

I kept thinking of "I" words in relation to typhoon warnings. To compare the full potential impact of risks and dangers, we need to whip people into frenzy and fever. (GET put in money to research on those brand names of condoms. Train for material, some acute couples, and Pepeng for young twenty lovers.)

Disaster preparedness can be festive as well, mobilizing our barangay leaders, as well as our art lovers, or kibitzers either, urging us to check with neighbors and friends, with special attention to households with increased vulnerability, for example, those with very young children or the elderly.

Our barangay system is alive and well and should implement contingency plans built around the multi-level system of warnings.

Alas, I do recognize the limits of emergency preparedness. Finally, each barangay should know where to evacuate residents before the flooding starts. But are Malabanding and surveillance ready to open their gates each time a strong typhoon strikes Manila?

THEY SAID

Better to give

"It's better to be in a position to give than to receive. From our experience with typhoons, we were always the ones receiving help instead of giving it, but this time, we're able to help ..."

—Isabel Rosario, president of the Rosario Foundation about a caravan of donations for victims of Ursa or "Ondoy"

Callous gov't out to impose more taxes amid suffering

LETTERS

THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN sorely tardy in disaster preparedness and response, has no reason to impose a tax on text—even if the measure is meant to fund post-ondoy rehabilitation efforts. It is absurd and insensitive for Congress to propose such a measure now as Metro Manila and some parts of Luzon have yet to recover from the trauma and rebuild from the disaster. While the whole world, and the loveliest among us, are already sharing ownership of ourselves as some some one million victims of "Ondoy" and "Pepeng," how come Congress hasn't found its soul to find ways and means to soothe the people with additional burdens.

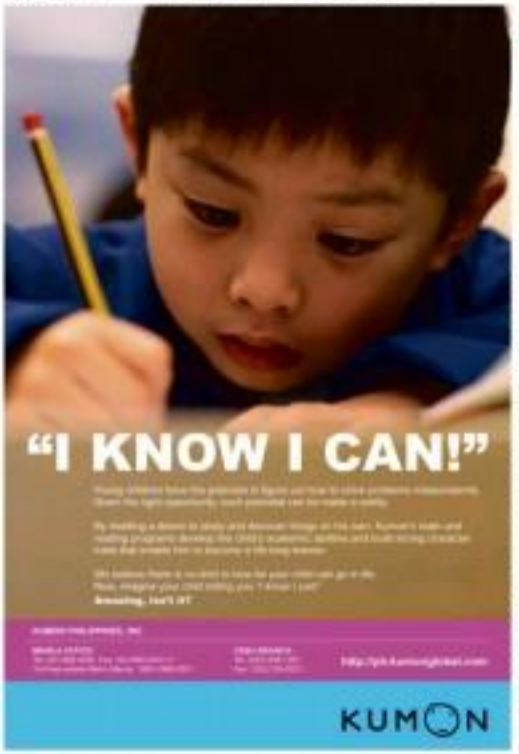
It seems that this government needs to be reminded that it has a duty to extend mercy as victims and survivors of calamities. It seems that this government has not been humbled by the show of compassion coming from instances in Metro Manila who donated cans of sardines for the victims. It appears that survivors of miserable yet more compassionate than this government. Indeed, "Smiled ya pag-asang, ate pare/Sa buhay ma'ng hamon ayo'kan a bend." Are this government seems to have lost all sense of morality and a growing more callous, taking advantage of people's misery in order to enrich itself from them. Why should we give this government another chance to steal more from us?

The answer lies in the Christ Mangagad. Ayaw nat de ni away for his people's neglect in the time of disaster is to censure the value-added tax, as from on prime commodities. This move will severely bring great relief to both the victims and those who are chasing their necessities as a gesture of love for and sympathy with the victims.

The state of calamity should all the more join the government remain not to burden the people with another tax. The proposal to impose tax on text messages is not only ridiculous but callous. All the more this kind of proposal from Congress exposes the government's inefficiency and neglect; it is not revealing of the government's lack of attention to and its deficiency of the people.

The people demand their sympathy in the face of nature's fury and compassion for devastating tragedy with the necessity of their compassion for one another. What is happening the people in the ground is the great disaster that is losing hope in the government is still... in arrears and are of arrears... by saying, people, let us help each other. It would be foolish for the government not to heed the signs of the people's response on the horizon.

—ARNOLD GALLAGA,
Engineering Batallan Para sa Bayan
(Lasalenyan), U.P NCEE-875 Edsa
Quezon City



SOLDIERS help in clean-up operations at hard-hit President residential subdivision in Marikina.

Note to media: Relief operations not a race

I AM VERY PROUD OF OUR KABABAYANG who worked out in the victims of tropical storm "Ondoy" (hope having little themselves, many did not hesitate to donate generously and tireless efforts to help those badly affected by the storm. The Filipinos' sense of compassion and their bayanihan spirit shine through even in these tragic times.

I also noticed that during disasters and emergencies, our vast media personnel are there to endeavor to brave through the storm and nasty weather to cover our kababayans. It is in this context that I would like to call media's attention to how a certain journalist did his reports. I was there how he reported just emphasis on how his network's group arrived first to extend help to others specially, MMDA, even the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Relief operations is not an "amazing race" challenge. What is important is not who gets to a storm victim's area first but that relief operations reach others who needed. What a bigger issue is that the help that our fellow Filipinos sincerely gave would reach the victims.

Soldiers waded through deep waters to rescue trapped victims, brought food to areas so submerged in water that no other rescuers could reach them. They flew helicopters even during adverse weather conditions to drop foodstuffs on areas inaccessible by water vessels or military trucks. In fact, several soldiers died during the rescue operations. But the soldiers never gleaned over their endeavors and achievements.

—BERTHEMONTESTELMO,
counterattackmonarch@gmail.com

Morato's appalling ad against 'yellow multitudes'

"FORGIVENESS IS A GIFT" I AGREE with this quote at the head of Manuel Morato's ad. (Inquirer, 9/30/09) In many ways, it is relevant to a society in the throes of political change, like the Philippines is today.

However, when Morato harbored the yellow Corytosa, the Lahoz sign, the 'yellow' ribbons and streamers 'already 'screaming' [to] the streets with anger," I was appalled. By doing so, Morato spat on the thousands upon thousands who stood in the rain for hours on historic Edsa and shouted their lungs out for freedom from tyranny. They were not screaming with anger, as Morato described. They were screaming the yearning of someone whom they honored for her courage. They were screaming the loss of a leader who led the country back to democracy, a fact that the whole world acknowledges. I could not believe that Morato missed the heavens story on "Dark, pure exam for Cory" (Inquirer, 8/5/09) and another one on "Greatest outpouring of love."

Morato said that the Aquino family enjoyed President Macapagal-Arroyo's "promise of paying her last respect" to Cory. Media broke this statement with published photos and broadcast video clips showing the Arroyos paying by Cory's coffin in record 1 a.m., while hypocrite cachos of the family stood by respectfully in the Manila Cathedral to give the family's refusal of the administration's offer to give Cory a state burial or build a monument for the person in Rizal Park, then has been neglected by the family in a way that people understand. There is no need to give another explanation here, it is enough that no one bashed them for their reasoning—except Morato. But then as Morato glibly says, "the ang nasa sa demokrasya (That's democracy for you."

So who is the unforgiving here? Who is carrying the burden of anger? Again to quote Morato: "Thank God I was not the one in the coffin or I would have kicked their asses out of there twice."

The 1 sign of labor also stands for "love." That's the way I understood it when I flashed that Lagos language, when I followed the historical courage of our beloved Ninoy Aquino in 1983, the "martyr" under the shadow of martial law then. We spoked with fear, but we boldly flashed the 1 sign of love, all that we could dare to do under the circumstances then.

I also remain standing up for what we believe in. If we want unity and peace, let's stop throwing tantrums like a frustrated child. Let's learn to understand what's each one is coming from. We appeal to his Master. Please let good tame daughter and feelings of kindness, generosity, and spirit of fulfillment. Let's learn to say "I get to cite one who gives it than to cite one it is given to. Unforgiving bitterness only results [in] more serious negative impact... not only to the mental health of one who harbors a lot more [but] physical health."

—ORTEVIRGILIO,
dctopmodel@yahoo.com

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CamSur townsfolk slam P700-M dam

Bohol's task looms large: Up rice yield for rest of RP

By Chito Fuentes
Inquirer Visayas

TAGBILARAN CITY—THE TASK looms large.

Bohol has to produce more rice to fill an expected shortage brought by devastation from tropical storm "Undoy" and typhoon "Pepeng" in Luzon.

"We need to produce more rice because there is greater need for it in the country," said Bohol Vice Gov. Julio Caesar Herrera.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) said the country may have to import at least 2 million tons of rice to fill the need for the staple.

"Bohol needs to step up this time," said Herrera, who chairs the provincial board's agriculture committee.

Bohol is enjoying bumper rice harvests that exceed local consumption.

Last year, Bohol produced 167,320 metric tons (MT) of palay, which was equivalent to 109,237.38 MT of rice.

It has 25,175.05 hectares of irrigated rice fields.

Since rice consumption is listed was 106,699.61 MT, the surplus was 2,537.89 MT.

In the event that the Leyte's blames, however, the rice province will then was an urgency for the province to produce more rice.

More typhoons are expected to hit the country before the year ends.

"There is a threat we only of an increase in the price of rice but more importantly of more people going hungry," he said.

The country has already imported 1.775 million tons of milled rice this year, mostly from Vietnam.

Herrera said the situation has become disturbing.

"Bohol, which has been more fortunate to be spared of these calamities, should therefore rise to the occasion," he added.

"This is the least we can do for our people," he said.

TRADERS, who are unable to ferry these vegetables to Manila, have been stockpiling the produce for three days now at the La Trinidad Trading Post. They now sell a local market low grade cabbages at P48 a kg. Cauliflower sells for P68 a kg.

Quezon fills gap in vegetable supply

SARIAYA, QUEZON—THE vegetable trading post here has been trying to fill the lack in vegetables in Metro Manila brought by devastation from Typhoon "Pepeng" in Benguet, the country's known vegetable capital.

Adol Mabulac, administrator of the Sentrong Dendiran ng Produktong Agrikultur ng Quezon Foundation Inc. (SDPAQFI), said his group has sent 20 tons of vegetables to Metro Manila following Tropical Storm "Undoy."

SDPAQFI is the first commissioned vegetable trading post in Southern Tagalog that started operating five years ago.

Mabulac said higher prices proved to benefit some of the members of his group.

"Just the other day one of our farm managers earned more than P30,000 for his newly harvested string beans," he said.

Vilma Manalo, farmer from the village of Ibo, Cawa, said she was able to sell string beans at P52 a kg and his leafy string of "malunggay" at P5 each string.

She said several weeks ago, string beans sell only for P10-P15 a kg.

Metro's vegetables

Benguet, the Cordillera, Mountain Province and lowland farms in Bukidnon, Nueva Ecija, Laguna and Cavite supply about 70 percent of Metro Manila's vegetables.

The SDPAQFI trades an average of 2-3 tons of vegetables daily.

At the trading floor, the SDPAQFI buys squash at P16/kg; eggplant, P47/kg; tomatoes, P35/kg; and string beans, P50/kg.

From Mindanao, members of the Philippine Banana Growers and Exporters Association (PBGEA) shipped 75 tons of bananas for flood victims in Metro Manila and Rizal.

Nicky Francia, PBGEA executive, said 7,500 bunch of bananas were shipped in two batches.

The banana exporters were endorsed to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), which will repack and distribute them to flood victims.

Fresh food lacking

PBGEA said its members decided to ship export-quality bananas in response to reports that evacuation centers lack fresh food for ready eating.

PBGEA said bananas are good sources of sugar and fiber, "which makes them ideal for an immediate and eligible prolonged source of energy."

"Athletes are known to consume bananas when they are competing to boost their energy levels," said the PBGEA in a statement. —Joffy T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon and Exo T. Hechanova in Manila

Villagers say communities to be wiped out in project

LUPI, CAMARINES SUR—A P700-MILLION DAM project seen here as President Macapagal-Arroyo's gift to her congressman-son, Dato, is encountering strong opposition from residents who said their communities would be wiped out if the dam pushes through.

The project is being implemented by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA)'s unit—the Bicol River Basin Water Management Project (BRBWMP).

Ike Sierva, one of the leaders of the group that opposes the project, said yesterday that a large portion of Lupi would be submerged under water if the dam pushes through.

Sierva said the people were never consulted, a key requirement in the issuance of an environmental clearance certificate to such project.

Sierva said the people are now asking their writers against the project because they were supposedly disregarded and may never get another chance to express their sentiments.

Bro Tomasito Monsoy, chief of the BRBWMP, alleged here that the P700-million 1.8-meter-Cabusao Dam (LIZ) project would cause massive flooding to Lupi and neighboring areas.

Bicol's biggest is small?

"The NIA, which is Bicol's biggest dam, is not capable of storing a huge volume of water," Monsoy said.

"It would not cause massive flooding contrary to the apprehension of residents living near it," he said.

He said the 11.3-meter tall and 130-m wide dam is a run-off river type of diversion structure unlike the big reservoir dams of Angat in Bulacan, Pantabangan in Nueva Ecija, and Magat in Isabela.

Monsoy said a run-off river dam is only capable of storing water up to the maximum crest of the dam which, in the case of LIZI, is 11.3 m only.

"Whatever water reaches this maximum level, water will spill over back to the river," he said.

"However dams are different because they are designed to store water during rainy days and "when the impounded water reaches the maximum reservoir elevation, it is released gradually," he explained.

Kept in the dark

Sierva, however, said the people of Lupi were unaware of the plan of the BRBWMP since the documents were kept from them.

"The data would obliterate the history of the town founded in 1726 as well as the identity and livelihood of so many people who will be affected," he said.

Sierva said a large portion of the 6th bamlet in the town would be under water, which will deprive the people of their primary source of livelihood.

He assured the people behind the dam project of giving preference in their "vested interests" rather than the interest of the people of Lupi.

He said the people would push for an investigation of how project funds were spent.

"We want our voices heard so that our opposition against the project would be thoroughly understood. We don't need the dam but rather the right system, processes and leadership in the first district to help the poor in our town," Sierva said.

Gift to Dato

The dam is part of the P5.168-billion worth of projects for the first district of Camarines Sur announced by Ms Arroyo in September last year, during the 36th birthday of her son Dato, representative of the first district of Camarines Sur.

The Libmanan-Cabusao irrigation project was started in 1982 by the former to irrigate some 4,000 hectares of farms. —Jam Banaclo-Ar, Inquirer Southern Luzon

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

A disaster waiting to happen

By Dolores Cutiyo
La Trinidad, Benguet

ALREADY GONE ON THE road near the community of Little Kiltangan in La Trinidad, Benguet, was the sign that read "Geohazard Area."

Evelyn Ramos, chair of Barangay Pugeo, says the sign, which the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) put up last year to warn residents about the area's instability, could have been swept away and buried together with those people if meant to alert when Tropical Depression "Pepeng" dumped heavy rains on Oct. 8.

Obviously, the sign was ignored, she says.

Pepeng's heavy rainfall eroded a huge portion of a mountain overlooking the village, unleashing a mudslide that swept through Little Kiltangan like a tidal wave.

Jeff Dacoag, a carpenter, says the slide was so sudden, "I saw his sister, Eileen Dondonilla, 14, [also] tonga out of the house," he says.

Patricia Lotegan, who heeded warnings to evacuate, says the mudslide came like a nightmare. "Parang ga-Ulan was too much," she says.

The toll was heartbreaking—more than 70 people dead, 46 people homeless and around 35 houses destroyed.

Thriving community

What once once a thriving community has been turned into a lifeless mountain slope mired in dirt. Some residents say the mountain above Little Kiltangan that eroded caused the village to disappear.

But Lolita Balocing, 69, a longtime Pugeo resident, says the mountain residents appreciated the condition of the village's soil kind.

"Pito silakot ch Pugeo are si Ama [The place is a rocky area. It was just covered underneath]," she says.

Situated on a mountain slope, Little Kiltangan was a community of vegetable traders, farmers, students and ordinary employees.

Before tragedy struck on Oct. 8, the place was one of the town's fastest growing communities that politicians found attractive to visit most during elections.

Barangay officials could not exactly say how many people lived in the village. Most of the residents, though, came from Kiltangan town, which explains the origin of the village's name.

But there were real squatters, says Councilor Francis Gan, a former Pugeo barangay chair. "They are legitimate landowners."

Last month's two-hectare village is owned by several people. The owners divided the land into several lots to be sold under soft-term conditions or easy-to-pay installment plans.

"That was the reason many were able to buy their own lots. Even those not from Kiltangan were convinced to buy [property from] L," Ramos says.

LITTLE Kiltangan in Barangay Pugeo, La Trinidad, Benguet, is a devastated community today because of landslides triggered by torrential rains during Typhoon "Pepeng." EVERT C. NEBRIDA

The MGB warning that the village could collapse any time was totally ignored

She says the lots' individual titles were being processed when the typhoon struck. But the only concern for the residents' safety grew following the MGB's findings that the area was unsafe.

Aside from that, the MGB says that there was a crack in the base of the village.

Local officials say the MGB warning meant the village could collapse any time.

Advice to relocate

According to Ramos, a few days after the MGB released the warning, local officials began asking the residents to relocate.

Ramos said letters to residents, advising them to consider abandoning their lots and houses to safer areas.

But she says the warnings were ignored. "It was underestimated. They have paid their lots and they already built their houses. Where will they go?" she asks.

"Boering them to leave would surely bring us to court," she says.

Before Pepeng hit, local officials started much effort to assess the residents of the danger lurking in the village, Ramos says.

Village officials took turns in using a bullhorn to ask them to leave. "Chillax: relocation sites were there to show to advise them to leave," she says.

At past 10 p.m. on Oct. 8, what was feared happened. Amid strong rain, neighbors across the village heard screams of pain and cries for rescue.

The following morning, Little Kiltangan was an arena.

Balocing says she heard rules that days before the tragedy, an evil flow and buried over the village. "That was actually a warning that a disaster would happen," she says.

HEALTH ADVISORY

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH PROMOTION
Department of Health, Manila, Philippines 2005

LEPTOSPIROSIS IWASAN!

- Iwasang lumangoy, lumusong at maglaro sa baha.
- Gumamit ng **bota** kung kailangang lumusong sa baha.
- Sumakay sa bangka o rubber boats kung aalis ng bahay.

Mga Palatandaan ng Leptospirosis

- **Lagnat**
- **Panginginig ng katawan o "Chills"**
- **Pamamakit ng ulo, binti, kalamnan at kasu-kasuan**
- **Pamamula ng mga mata**
- **Paninilaw ng balat**
- **Nahihirapang umihi**

Kung may lagnat ng 2 araw, agad na komunsulta sa doktor.

Buhay ay mahalaga, huwag lumusong sa baha.

Isang paalala mula sa inyong Kalihim ng Kalusugan!
- Sec. DUQUE

Police tighten security after priest's kidnap; bomb found

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL Police (PNP) is strengthening its defenses against terrorists in Mindanao following the kidnapping of Irish missionary Fr. Michael Sinnott and the discovery of a homemade bomb in a beach resort.

In a directive yesterday, PNP Director General Jesse Sotnas instructed Director Rhisada Serapio, head of integrated police operations in Western Mindanao, to closely supervise the readiness of policemen in his area to fight terrorism.

Welcome also said the directive was made after a bomb was discovered on Friday at a public beach in Lantawan City, Basilan.

Serapio said the improvised explosive device (IED) had a "devastating potential."

Vendor found bomb

"The suspects had placed the IED in the vicinity of the beach resort and aimed to harm a big number of people who were scheduled to hold community activities the following day, Saturday," Serapio said in a statement.

According to Serapio, the bomb was found by a vendor inside a plastic box at the Kalanggan Beach Resort. Police and military bomb disposal units defused it.

Serapio said the device was composed of four 81-mm mortar shells, a 60mm mortar shell, four liters of ammonium nitrate, three kilos of two-inch concrete nails, a 12-volt battery, improvised blasting caps and a remote-activated car alarm switch.

Its discovery "averted what could have been another bloody tragedy," Serapio said, adding an investigation was under way to identify the would-be bombers. —Alcinde Rojas

IN THE KNOW

Religious targets

AT LEAST 15 CHURCH PEOPLE have been kidnapped in Mindanao since 1993. They included eight foreign nationals and seven Filipinos.

• **March 18, 1993.** Spanish priest Fr. Bernardo Blanco was driving on his parish in Matalling, Initao, when gunmen abducted him. He escaped after 48 days in captivity.

• **June 8, 1994.** Abu Sayyaf bandits snatched a bus and two passengers in Basilan. They seized 50 people, including Filipino priest Fr. Cirilo Nacorda and 13 teachers. Nacorda was freed after 65 days.

• **July 31, 1994.** The Abu Sayyaf abducted American priest Fr. Clarence William Bacsalman, who was rescued after several hours.

• **March 15, 1998.** Kevin Aberle, a pastor of The Jesus Fellowship, was kidnapped in Davao City. He was released 24 hours later, after a "ransomal" amount was paid.

• **Sept. 10, 1998.** Eduardo Gordo Jr., an Episcopal priest from Baguio, was raiding his family in Ufi, Maguindanao, when he was kidnapped. His body was found in March 1999.

• **July 3, 1907.** Five gunmen flagged down a van driven by Protasio Bueno Wadinda-ho in Zamboanga del Sur and seized him. Ninety-six days later, they died him dead, suspecting they were being ambushed by soldiers in a place where they were supposed to receive a P50,000 ransom from Bro's wife.

P7-M ransom

• **Dec. 27, 1997.** Irish priest Fr. Desmond Hartford, acting Bishop of the Marawi prelature, and Filipino priest Fr. Phil Quilinawan were abducted in Kidanthagar, Lanao del Norte. Quilinawan was freed two days by the authorities the kidnappers' demand. Hartford was released 11 days later.

• **Nov. 18, 1997.** Belgian priest Fr. Bernard Maes was on his way home from a farewell party for Fr. Hartford when four armed men abducted him in front of a church in Marawi. His kidnappers, believed to be former members of the Moro National Liberation Front, freed him two days later.

• **Sept. 8, 1998.** Suspected Muslim rebels seized Italian priest Fr. Luciano Benedetti and 22 Filipinos in Zamboanga del Norte. The Filipinos were released unharmed. Benedetti was freed on Nov. 16, reportedly after a P7-million ransom was paid.

Teachers found dead

• **March 26, 2000.** Abu Sayyaf bandits seized Filipino priest Fr. Rhod Gallardo and more than 50 students and teachers. Most of the hostages were eventually released. On May 3, 2000, the bodies of Gallardo and three teachers were found in Lantawan town.

• **Aug. 28, 2001.** Irish Columban missionary Fr. Brian Hallay was shot dead in Malabang, Lanao del Sur, after resisting a kidnap attempt.

• **Oct. 17, 2001.** Italian priest Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni was abducted by armed men while saying Mass in Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur. He was freed on April 8, 2002.

• **Jan. 28, 2003.** Agriculture priest Melchito Bernardino, an ordaining ashwasay, were missing in Sarigan del Norte. He was recovered in a state of shock eight days later.

• **June 19, 2007.** Italian priest Fr. Giancarlo Bossi was on his way to say Mass when he was kidnapped by Moro guerrillas in Zamboanga Sibugay. He was released after 39 days. Inquirer Research

Source: Inquirer Archives

BOSSI Freed after 39 days

PIERANTONI Freed after 6 months

GALLARDO Killed

BLANCO Escaped after 48 days

Kidnapped priest seen alive three times; AFP holds fire

By Jaime Al

Cpl. Simeon said his kidnappers have been sighted three times but can not say as was "cause for alarm" or concern for the priest's safety, said the regional military commander, Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino.

A large, well-organized kidnap gang—and not the Abu Sayyaf bandits, as earlier reported—was behind the abduction of the 68-year-old Columban priest, according to Dolorfino, the Western Mindanao Command chief.

"It turned out that it's not the Abu Sayyaf but another group, which is also big," he said.

Officials said three had been in demands received from the kidnappers, who had not made contact with the authorities.

"More or less, we have an idea what particular group is responsible but as of the moment, we cannot divulge it," Dolorfino said.

Asked if he was referring to the Pentagon gang, rebels was linked to the abduction of several foreigners in the past, Dolorfino only said "some of them are Malaysian-speaking."

Sighted in Lanao

"Most likely the same group that abducted Father Bossi," he said, referring to Italian priest Fr. Giancarlo Bossi.

The Italian was kidnapped in June 2007 while on his way to say Mass in a village in Zamboanga Sibugay and released more than a month later. His captors were led by an alleged leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Dolorfino said Simeon and his captors were sighted in Lanao but did not say in what specific area and whether it was in Lanao del Sur or Lanao del Norte. He said security forces were throwing a cordon in the area.

3 sightings

Dolorfino said Simeon's kidnappers might have links with other groups, including reinforcement rebels.

"Yesterday (Monday) up to today, we have had three reported sightings. The efforts of our AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) and the (Philippine National Police) are to contain them in that particular area," Dolorfino said.

"We have dispatched more assets from ground to sea to seal off any passages and out of here is to contain them in one area and prevent them from moving to another place."

Encounter Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters the abduction would not distract policemen and soldiers from their job of delivering relief goods to flood victims and rebuilding infrastructure.

He said Simeon could have been seized by the Abu Sayyaf bandits or by members of the MILF special operations group.

File photo of 78-year-old Irish priest Fr. Michael Sinnott celebrating Mass in Pagadian City. AFP/ROMEO GACAD

He said his office would give a reward to anyone with information on Simeon's whereabouts.

He said informants could contact Malabang Police at 09069933238 and 09277135025.

Simeon's superior, Patrick O'Donoghue, said the church had not received calls from any group claiming responsibility for the kidnapping, but he ruled out paying a ransom, ruling church policy.

He said Simeon's health was fragile, and he could die if he failed to take his daily medicine.

"We fear because if from the reports I see he needs constant medication," O'Donoghue said. "He is taking his daily medication and without that, his health would be jeopardized."

"Whatever your motives are, please recognize the age and health condition of Father Michael," O'Donoghue said in a message to the kidnappers.

"For those reasons, please release him quickly and safely."

Urgent need for medicine

Pagadian City Bishop Emeterio Cabajar appealed to the kidnappers to free the Irish priest.

Simeon underwent a quadruple heart bypass operation four years ago, the Inquirer learned.

"It is urgent that some arrangement be made to ensure that Fr. Mich gets his medicine," Cabajar said.

"The President directed the (immediate) dispatch of special operatives to conduct a fast operation for the safe recovery of Father Simeon," Ermita said.

Zamboanga del Sur Gov. Aurora Cerilles has activated the provincial crisis management committee and formed Task Force Bantay to monitor the kidnapping.

Allan Mable, Zamboanga del Sur provincial government spokesperson, said local authorities had received some leads and established checkpoints in the area.

"As to the identity of the suspects, we are still facing a blank wall. It's too early to say any group," Mable said.

Reward for informants

Pagadian City Mayor Samuel Cabajar said.

Simeon's fellow Columban missionary, Fr. Sean Martin, said: "I am appealing to their compassion. I am hopeful they will be able to release him."

Cabajar said he was saddened that Simeon had to undergo such an experience, given his "invaluable service to the people, especially the children," through the Naiapag Kalinaan Foundation that he runs. The foundation helps Christian and Muslim children with disabilities.

Bangsamoro Civil Society

"In solidarity, we join our Christian brothers in strongly condemning this act. We also pray for his safety and his immediate release," read a joint statement of the Coalition of Bangsamoro Civil Society and Ummah Filipinas.

The group noted that apart from his work as special children, Simeon was also a respected member of the Interfaith Forum for Solidarity and Peace in Pagadian.

Sid Kabalo, MILF civil-military affairs chief, said their forces had joined the manhunt for the kidnappers "in the spirit of helping out in this humanitarian concern."

Simeon has spent more than 40 years in the Philippines. Fondly called Father Mich by his flock, he is described by colleagues as a compassionate defender of victims of injustice and as a benefactor to the poor. —With reports from Christine U. Esguerra, AP and AFP

Calamity diplomas? No way, says DepEd chief

By Jaime Al

ed by the recent storm may be given passing marks for this grading period or semester.

Lapuz said the Department of Education (DepEd) was not told on the idea of handing passing marks across the board because doing so might further hobble a public education system reeling from storm-damaged or destroyed property worth P5 billion.

"Maybe [the school] was misconstrued? [If we follow his suggestion], we compound our losses of lives and property before with a socially penalty to the education of our children," said Lapuz, who, like the senator, is a member of the Nacionalista Party's Coalition.

"The students might pay for unemployment every year, and we might end up with calamity diplomas," he added.

Education Undersecretary Yolina Lobrador echoed Lapuz' pointers, saying: "We sympathize with the victims of the recent typhoons, including our students and teachers. The typhoons have lost lives and resources. We can't afford to lose further by giving up the needed learning of our youth."

Lobrador said school and local officials would ensure all regular classes as soon as possible and were "looking for ways to make up for the missed class days."

"The required minimum number of class days can be met," she said.

Walk the extra mile

On the other hand, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) is leaving it to secondary schools to decide on the matter.

DepEd Navotas Capital Region Director Dennis Domalanta said teachers were willing to "walk the extra mile" and even "bend policies" just so the students in devastated areas would make the grade.

After all, under normal circumstances, "no more only one or two students" fail in an average class of 50 students in public schools, Domalanta said, adding:

"That's because our teachers always try their best to give those students in danger of failure [every chance to pass]. Remedial classes and other enrichment modes. Our teachers even visit them at home."

"So now, without many of our students are also victims of the [storm], they will do what they can to help students pass. We've already thought about this. Our teachers will walk the extra mile to visit them."

Domalanta admitted that when classes resumed last week, teachers' attendance was noticeably low in the devastated areas of Marikina, Pasig, Taguig, Rizal, Valenzuela and Muntinlupa.

"But this week, we've noticed that the numbers are improving," she said.

According to Domalanta, the DepEd division is considering to extend classes or serving as evacuation centers may temporarily cancel classes there.

"We'll have separate rounds for that, and they can return to their original schools later," she said.

Case-by-case basis

CHED Executive Director Julito Vitriolo said the issue could be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

He said school officials could assess their students' standing.

"If the grades of those evacuees show that they have a chance of passing even if they had their final exams, then maybe they can be exempted from their finals," Vitriolo said.

"But if their grades show that there is no hope of passing over, if they got a perfect grade in their finals, then that's a different matter," he said.

Editor Tonipet B. Melendrez ✦ Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

SPORTS

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TNT sends Aguilar to Smart Gilas

By Jane Manaois

TALK 'N TEXT WILL RELEASE MVP(5) ACQUIRED ROOKIE) CENter Asperth Aguilar to the Smart Gilas national developmental pool, the team and the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas said in separate statements yesterday.

Aguilar will play for the Smart Gilas squad in the BPC-PBA Philippine Cup following a single-game stint with Burger King, the team that drafted him No. 1 overall this year. Aguilar had 1.0 points and nine rebounds in a 92-80 defeat to Purefoods in opening day.

In a statement yesterday, Talk 'N Text governor Ricky Vargas—also the SBP vice president—confirmed the three-team trade that eventually sent Aguilar to the Tropang Texters.

He said the team has "made a commitment not to include Aguilar in the Talk 'N Text roster list in manual release him to Smart Gilas national team under coach Fiquin Reyeman."

SBP executive director Noli Eala echoed the pact statement.

"Sports is definitely cutting up [for Smart Gilas]," said Eala. "We want to make him play on Friday but I have yet to discuss the terms of the trade with Talk 'N Text and its agreement with Burger King."

Burger King dropped Aguilar to Barako Bull which, in turn, traded the rights to the former Pioneers Binmaley Umawow to Talk 'N Text for a couple of future draft picks.

"This agreement could never have been possible without the willingness of Burger King team owner Mr. Bert Lim and PBA chair and team manager Ato Ordoven who, despite losing the services of Aguilar, put their overriding interest in helping the Smart Gilas national team above all else," Vargas said in his statement.

"Talk 'N Text could do no less, in fairness to the nine other teams in the PBA."

Aguilar signed a one-year pact worth P1.8 million with the Whoppers, a deal which will be assessed by the Tropang Texters, the only franchise owned by SBP president Manny V. Pangilinan.

"I have yet to discuss his contract with Talk 'N Text," said Eala. "Either [the SBP will] negotiate the contract or just take on the contract since he's not playing with Talk 'N Text."

Smart Gilas is a program geared toward the 2011 Fiba Asia Championship, which offers an Asian slot to the 2012 Olympics.

AGUILAR: Here's cash coming

Caguioa, Seigle back in PBA action today

By Manong R. Castillo

SAN MIGUEL AND BARANGAY GINebra will pick up from where they left off, with the street squads clashing, tonight in a battle of heavyweights in the BPC-PBA Philippine Cup phase in the double-header of the season at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

The last time these two sides collided was in Game 7 of the Finals Cup Finals last season, a game which the Beermen won convincingly at the expense of a Ginebra crew that missed Mark Caguioa the entire year.

Caguioa will make a comeback in the 7:30 p.m. contest with both teams now heading as he reassumes his role as the Gin Kings' heart, with reigning MVP Jay Mirbel-Sotto continuing to be the team's soul.

"Any team can beat any team in this league," San Miguel coach Siot Tanquingcen said when asked how he would rate his powerhouse squad. "Every team hooked up in the off-season.

"El say it's pretty balanced," he said, pointing out to Caguioa's return as the factor why Ginebra is considered one of the top teams in the tournament.

Alaska, second placer to Talk 'N Text last year, dogs it out with a grieving Barako Bull in the 5 p.m. contest.

The Energy Boosters are still mourning the loss of long-time team manager and former league chair Tony Chua, who was one of the casualties of Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

On paper, the Kings and the Boosters boast the most explosive teamers, with Siot Miguel adding Arwind Santos into the mix and Ginebra enlisting Rico Villanueva, a formidable undersized presence, during the off-season.

It would be interesting to see how Santos would fit into the Siot Miguel system, with old reliable Danny Seigle back in the fray and Sinolan Hontiveros still at his prime.

Seigle missed most of last year because of a nagging back injury and his return has only bolstered the stock of the rock-solid Ginebra no end.

Two-time MVP Willie Miller will lead the Arts against a Barako Bull team that is listed as the weakest team on the field.

The Batang Pier scoring ace Gabby Espinas is a mate with Sta. Lucia last year.

PUREFOODS' Wanbaliw shines in debut.

Cangolf Open fires off; RP aces head field

By Manong R. Castillo

CARMELRAMO, LAGUNA—WITH THE MOmentum of a banner year on his side, Mark Hernando looms as the man to beat when the PGM playing of the Candelaria Amateur Open tees off in the suspended Manila layout here.

The 20-year-old stalwart of the Philippine squad leads a stellar roster of participants that also includes the best of the two stables that have dominated practically every title in the land in the last few years.

Playing out of the National Caddies' Open-Galvanquez program together with Fernando are Jerard Abella, Jessie Bulusinlan, Ched Echavez and Alvin Espino.

They will be joined in the 54-hole tournament by the rough PGM crew led by defending champion Teodito Asistio, Hadlee Bayron, Dante Bertiers and Zarnie Roy Gadon.

More than 150 players have signed up for the tournament, with trophies in Classes A, B and C, tee up for grabs over 36 holes.

Pasay 'Big Event' fires off Friday

TOPNOTCH HORSES ARE EXPECTED THIS FRIday in the Pasay Sagipusan Big Event's 'Stag Derby 8 at the Pasay City Cockpit.

PCC pit managers Pino Bote Rosa and Bobchay Chavez said that matchings of contenders will be done as early as possible, and that stags will be interviewed before they can be accepted.

The first Pasay Big Event on Aug. 21 drew 42 entries and was won by the MVP5 Queen Elizabeth of Manny Pacquiao and Ron Reyes.

"Pacquiao's entries are most likely to be matched against those of Patrick Antonio, Jerry Hanson, Jun Tupaldo, Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado, ELC owner Rodolfo Pineda, Freddie Romualdez, Tony Ramos or Tambo Sy," Dok Rosa said. "If Pacquiao-Antonio duel will be a dream fight."

Submission of entries is on tomorrow.

LGBA 7-Stag Derby finals today

THE CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO OF THE LUZON Game cock Breeders Association (LGBA) 7-Stag Derby starts today at the San Juan Coliseum with more than 71 natives at stake.

To accommodate the 106-entry field, the finals will be held today and on Saturday, according to Rene "Boy" Diaz, president of LGBA.

Fifteen participants tallied three wins each while seven others have 2.5 points and 43 with 2.

Last Saturday's 5 scorers were Jun Bermudez, Gene Barba, Ning Angeles, Jeo Wolfers, Dong Chang, Boy Diaz and Richard Pelino.

By Top Choice
At Santa Ana Park

Toyo Gakuen nips UP netters

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TOYO GAKUEN UNIVERSITY LEADED HEAVily on its girls team to score a 7-5 victory over University of the Philippines-Diliman in the second day of the Philippines Japan University Friendship Tennis '09 at the Ateneo Country Club.

Rana Madarcos and Ayaka Iwata bested Rance Guillermo and Bea Gibergan, 6-4, before Sandra Vasquez and Natasha Cuenco also stunned Natasha Cuenco and Diana Quizon, 8-4, in the girls doubles to coast off the day.

Iwata next scored a 6-0 rout over Rita Guillermo in the girls singles, while Matsuoka thrashed JV Custodio, 6-0, and Morimoto swamped Theodore Gamos, 8-3.

Unfortunately for the UP box, the second BU school teams that stood up Toyo Gakuen, top girl Chiaro Quizon earned back Ayaka Iwata, 6-4, in the last of the four girls singles matches.

Last Sunday Ateneo bested Toyo Gakuen (7-3) in the opener.

UP's boys doubles team swept to matches as Dennis Maldoza and Leandro Fernandez beat Ayobat Okada and Ken ichi Hashiura, 8-5, and James Pang and Julian Mendoza were down Shohei Hirata and Hasato Kimura, 8-7 (5).

Stags, Lions dispute No.1 slot

By Jasmine W. Paya

SAN SEBASTIAN AND SAN BEDA fight for the No. 1 seed in the NCAA men's basketball tournament just two days after their thrilling showdown conquered up the elimination round.

"It's important to the team and it's personal for me. So, dalaw the top bracket," said coach Frankie Lim, whose Lions are battling for a fourth straight crown. "We always end up in No. 1 in my first two years as coach here, so it's really special for me."

The Stags and the Lions, tied at 14-2, battle at 4 p.m. today at the PBSP Flying V Arena in San Juan, right after a pair of juniors exhibit matches.

"We'll definitely make some adjustments," said Stags coach Jun Agustin after the Lions slipped his squad in a 71-67 thriller that forged a playoff.

The winner in the Lions-Stags duel will clash with the fourth-ranked Letran Knights in the Final Four, while the losing team will take on the third-seeded Jose Rizal Bombers in the other semifinal pairing.

San Beda's Ola Adeogun, counterpart also-shoot for No. 1 seed in the Cuba and the Letran Squires, both sharing the top spot at 17-1, tonight at 2 p.m.

Perpetual Help and Jose Rizal, tied at fourth at 11-7, will also dispute the last semifinal berth at 11 a.m.

Rookie Donald Jr. of the Lions' 6-foot-6 rookie ace, rebounded from his lowest production with 15 points, 11 rebounds and four blocks last Monday.

Greyhounds sweep Bicol elims, enter MM zonals

By Jasmine W. Paya

UNIVERSITY OF NUEVA CACERES TOPPED the Southern Luzon Bicol elimination round for the second straight year to advance to the zonal qualifying of the 2009 Philippine Collegiate Championship League (PCCL).

The Greyhounds, champions in the Naga City Chamber Interscholastic Basketball, swept all four assignments in the regionals to advance to the South Luzon leg in Metro Manila in zonals on Nov. 12 to 14 in Naga City.

After trouncing Bicol College, 76-56, in the opener, the Greyhounds toppled Tabaco's Aquinido Cops College, 75-40; Sorsogon's Computer College of Science and Technology, 88-62; and Daraga's Cristian Educational Foundation of Quezon Colleges, 88-68, in the games held at the Naga City Center.

The Greyhounds, however, need to get past zonal contenders Lc Jude Green Archers (UNAP sixth placer), St. Francis of Assisi Darussalam Colleges and College of Lucena (CIC) Association champion) and the NCAA-fourth champion to claim a finals berth.

Back-to-back UAAP champion Ateneo entered an outright berth to the Down 16.

UNAP runner-up University of the East and semifinalists Far Eastern University and University of Santo Tomas also entered elimination along with NCAA Final Four teams San Sebastian, San Beda, Jose Rizal and Letran.

Apart from the Stags leg, the PCCL will also hold another zonal tournament in Cebu City where Visayas champion San Sebastian Recoletos-Cavite and Adamson U will be competing.

ORLA Bowing of Adamson hammers a spike past Mica Quiboran of Lyceum during their game yesterday. AUGUSTO CRUZ

Lady Falcons score 1st win

Ateneo turns back State U

By Jose Mesiera

THE ADAMSON LADY FALCONS VERBLE struggled before finally fending off Lyceum's gutsy stand to hark out a 25-20, 13-25, 20-13, 18-25, 15-13 win and enter the win column of the Shakey's V-League Season 6 second conference yesterday at the Filoil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Pau Soriano came up with 18 hits while Jill Gentle contributed 13 points as the Lady falcons posted their first victory following a loss at downfall against reigning champion University of Santo Tomas during the conference opener on Sunday.

"We found it difficult to adjust and execute our game plan without a gym where we could practice regularly," said Adamson coach Cherie Penny.

Penny was referring to the Admirers gym, the hosting of which was damaged by the flash flood brought by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" more than two weeks ago. Penny said it will take more than a month to rehabilitate the gym.

The Lady Falcons also failed to squeeze out the best from guest player Charmaine Mendaño, who scored only nine points throughout the two-hour contest.

"She (Mendaño) just arrived from the province. She probably didn't expect that the games would be this competitive," said Penny.

Ateneo also made it into the win column with a 25-23, 23-15, 23-13 whipping of the University of the Philippines in the other game.

Jiel Gervacio's go-ahead hit and a set-clinching volley by Chen Gorayeb midway in the fourth frame allowed the Lady Eagles to grab the momentum and pull away from a tight opening set.

Sta. Elena, Highlands gain Fed League finals

STA. ELENA AND TAGAYTAY HIGHlands backed out sterling come-from-behind wins over their semifinal opponents recently to arrange a showdown for the 2009 Metro Federation Golf League championship.

The overachieving Sta. Elena squad, which has never gone past the eliminations in its long years of participation in the event, found its way to the finals after claiming the scalp of Wack Wack, 6-4.

Highlands, a losing semifinalist last year, scored a 13-5 decision over Eastridge to the other Final Four berth, and many slant to also get a crack at it this time in the league.

Down 1.5 (3.5) in the many games at Eastridge, the Highlanders rallied from the big deficit to turn the tables on their visitors with a 6-1 result, ousted by Hope Lim and Jun Sabuco's decisive victory in the aggregate format.

The finals is set this Saturday with Sta. Elena opting to host their rivals Highlands in the home-and-away.

It was the tandem of lawyer Marcelino Chan and junior golf standout Miguel Tabuena who delivered the crucial point for Sta. Elena, which fell 3.5 at home but rallied with a 4-1 win at Wack Wack.

Playing against Wack Wack's most potent pair of Hidetoe Wang and Tomio de Jesus, Chan and Tabuena squandered a four-hole lead through 13 holes and allowed their opponents to draw level on the 17th. Chan, however, salvaged a bogey on the 18th by two-putting from 50 feet, sending Wack Wack's dream-an-de-Jesus took a double.

Earlier, Sat Alfredo Luigi Tabuena went to knock off Hayashi Richie Yang to win the ensemble point and Richie Garcia-Kenneth Yang finished off their aggregate foes on the 12th hole.

His triumph went straight into the semis after topping the eliminations while Highlands ousted defending champion Riviera in the quarterfinals.

Japeth, a different case

THE SAGA OF THE CONTROVERSIAL case of Japeth Aguilar continues to run its ugly bend.

Japeth finally ended up signing a one-year contract with the Burger King Whoppers and played his first PBA game Sunday.

This was made possible by the intervention of Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas president and Talk 'N Text owner Manny V. Pangilinan, who was able to settle his team's dispute and father Peter to sign.

However, there are reports that the compromise agreed upon will result in Japeth being traded by Burger King, a company in which Pangilinan has a substantial stake, to another team, eventually landing with Talk 'N Text. (The PBA prohibits direct trade between clubs more...PAL)

If that happens, Japeth's could soon be released to the Smart Gilas national team.

* * *

What was all this noise about?

In my opinion, and knowing how basketball and business operate in this country, there seems to be a couple of big major issues that have been trying to score face by striking a deal.

* * *

The PBA hierarchy was consistently quoted saying they did not want anyone to make a mockery of their rules.

They keep hammering the fact that Japeth was not making the rules of the league seriously when he declared up for the PBA draft only to refuse to sign after he was drafted.

After the announcement of the belated contract signing, there were insinuations that it was Japeth's allies for "double-the money" that made him decide to sign. He needed, supposedly, monster salaries from both Burger King and Smart Gilas.

Rumors done to this deal, however, say otherwise.

It appears that it is Burger King which will make money out of this whole scenario. They have been known to sell their prized players in the past.

* * *

Allow me to refresh your memory as to why I always consider Japeth's case to be different from those of the other players who participated in the draft.

HEART, SOUL, SPORTS

Tommy Manotoc

It was very clear from the start that Japeth's intention was to play for the national team and not The PBA.

However, it was a condition set by national coach and Burger King coach Yeng Guiao that Japeth had to be part of the draft in order for him to get a slot in the National Team.

The relationship between coach Yeng and the Aguilar family made a turn for the worse after the coach's supposed verbal tirades against Japeth during the 20th Asia tournament in Tianjin, China. This was what caused the problem and made the Aguilar family decide against letting Japeth play for coach Yeng.

* * *

This whole scenario has left a bad taste in the mouth of many PBA fans.

The Filipino will always root for the underdog, especially when he is up against the rich and powerful.

This issue has been a thorn on the side of the PBA.

The public reaction has been very strong in favor of Japeth.

In fact, he drew generous applause from the crowd in the recent Smart Gilas Nonvocable charity game where he scored 2/4 points and four rebounds.

He obviously has the people's sympathy.

* * *

Legally, he would not have done anything wrong by not signing the contract with Burger King.

In my opinion, the PBA could have let him go—it would have been better for the league if it did so since Japeth's case is really that different.

Such a move would have gained the league the goodwill they sorely need.

Please send comments to tommymanotoc@yahoo.com

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Family loses ₱3M to robbers

By DJ Yap

ARMED MEN RAIDED A BUSInesswoman's house in San Juan City on Monday, tied up the members of her household and took P3 million worth of valuables, including several guns belonging to her late husband, the police said.

The daring heist, which took only 20 minutes, happened at about 6:15 a.m. on Monday when eight men forced their way into the house of Marcelita Cenlard, 62, a retiree, at 223 F Benitez corner Panaderos Streets.

Chief Supt. Benjamin Magnaye, director of the Eastern Police District, said Cenlard's daughter, Wilhelmina Lao, 35, was about to leave the house with two companions, one of whom was carrying a gun, when their path was blocked by eight men.

The robbers diverted Lao's companion at his firearm and herded all of them back inside the house.

They then tied up the victims, including Lao's 5-year-old son, stay-in cook Henry Villanueva and three other house helpers.

Loot included several guns

Investigators said the armed men took several pieces of jewelry, electronic gadgets like cell phones and laptop computers, as well as several handguns of different calibers that belonged to Cenlard's late husband, retired Col. Gonzalo Mesaagaye.

At due time, Cenlard rose to chaotic. She learned about the robbery when she came home, her brother Manny told the inquirers.

Senior Supt. Pio-neptio Lipana, San Juan police chief, said his men were looking into leads to find the robbers.

"We have some persons/cities we're tracking down who might be connected to the crime based on what the victims told the investigators," Magnaye said.

Lipana said the multimillion heist was the first in the neighborhood and even in the city in many months.

Patient files complaint vs doctor

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGA-tion (NBI) will summon for questioning a doctor of the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) who allegedly left a piece of surgical gauze inside a patient who gave birth at the medical facility.

Investigators of the NBI Violence Against Women and Children Division said they were trying to determine whether Dr. Maricel Reyes, an obstetrician and gynecologist, should be held liable for negligence based on a complaint filed by her patient, Janet Dizon.

Dizon said that a month after she gave birth at PGH, she consulted another doctor because there was pain in her private part which refused to go away.

Based on her complaint, Dizon said she gave birth at PGH on June 20. She was con-

MORE A2

Metro cops arrest wanted bank robber

By Marlon Ramos

AFTER FAILING TO DETERMINE HIS whereabouts for years, the police have finally caught one of the country's most wanted bank robbers in Pasay City, the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) said yesterday.

Edwin "Jun" Ayop, 35, was arrested by police intelligence agents at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 after he arrived from Davao at around 9:10 p.m. on Oct. 9.

Director Rolando Rosales, NCRPO chief, said Ayop was a member of the dreaded Amparo Cobanpo syndicate, an organized robber group believed to be behind a string of bank robbery cases in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

In a press briefing, Rosales said Ayop was one of the country's 20 most wanted robbers. He was also considered one of the Mindanao-based robbery group's "major players."

According to the NCRPO chief, Ayop was sentenced last year to 18 years in prison by the La Union City court after he was found guilty of robbery.

Rosales added that Ayop was also facing five other criminal cases in San Pedro, Pasay City and San Fernando in Pampanga.

Senior Supt. Felly Rebeta, NCRPO intelligence chief, said he immediately deployed his men to the airport after they learned that Ayop was on a flight bound for Metro Manila.

"The suspect reportedly left for Manila after he was contacted by other gang members over a passport," Rebeta told reporters.

Rebeta said Ayop was among several known armed men who held up BDO branches in Metro Manila as Las Piñas City, Quezon City and Pampanga a few years ago.

Meanwhile, Rosales said his men also arrested a "serial soldier" posing on people going to prison and Bicutan station.

Anthony Cortez, 41, was arrested outside the Bicutan's Parañaque Prison Medium Security Compound in Bicutan at around 10 a.m. on Monday.

Rosales said Cortez was caught several times on closed-circuit television cameras stealing valuables from customers' lockers inside Bicutan station.

TRAVEL OPTIONS
Residents in Meycauayan, Pasig City parts of which is remain flooded due to "Ondoy," have two choices when traversing Laguna Street. They can either walk on a temporary wooden bridge built by the city government or ride an makeshift rafts which can run them as low as P10 each way.

EXCLUSIVE
OPENS TODAY
AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
From the Director of "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days" & "Just My Luck"
NIA VARDALOS
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MY LIFE IN RUINS
Falling in Love... in all the wrong places.
Glorietta
Greenbelt

ENRICH: THE WAY FORWARD

MMDA sprays garbage with disinfectant

By Marlon Ramos

TO STEM THE SPREAD OF WATER-BORNE diseases, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando has ordered his men to sanitize mounds of garbage left by floodwaters that ravaged the metropolis more than two weeks ago.

Fernando yesterday said the agency's Solid Waste Management Office and its personnel are flooding their areas in the cities of Marikina, Pasig and Taguig last week to declutter mounds of garbage.

"The main objective of this is to prevent the spread of any kind of illness and to ensure that our cities remain healthy," he said.

Using "knapsack sprayers" similar to those used by farmers, MMDA personnel sprayed biodegradable disinfectant on heaps of debris and trash.

"It is understood [that] no health hazard will ensue. It is nontoxic and believed to enhance the decomposition of wastes," Fernando said.

He added that the MMDA has already deployed nine sprayers and used 900 liters of disinfectant on the city's streets.

He said MMDA personnel disinfected temporary dumpsites in villages in Taguig, Mandaluyong, Pasay City and Valenzuela in Metro Manila.

Health officials earlier warned of a possible outbreak of food and waterborne illnesses in evacuation centers more than two weeks after Tropical Storm "Ondoy" battered Metro Manila.

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METROBRIEFS

Woman robbed of P1M

A RESIDENT of a posh subdivision in Quezon City lost almost P2 million worth of jewelry to thieves who broke into her home on Monday, Insp. Edgar Tinoga of the Quezon City Police District's theft and robbery investigation section said Wednesday.

Tinoga said Corinthian Village resident Estrella Bautista told police yesterday that she lost a diamond necklace, a diamond bracelet, a gold watch with diamonds, two gold bangles and other pieces of jewelry worth nearly P2 million. She said the theft occurred while she was out of her house on Monday afternoon. She added that the only people left inside the house were her two maids and her 78-year-old grandson. The police said they would interview the people who were at home when the robbery was believed to have occurred for questioning.

Julie M. Aurelio

Man killed in accident

A FAST food restaurant manager was killed in his car's doors yesterday in a motorcycle mishap in Manila. Alfredo Bolalin Jr., 30, an employee of the McDonald's branch at Gil Puyat, died accidentally when the bike Bolalin's AXM motorcycle was riding collided on the street at around 1 a.m. on the Bagumbayan Bridge in Sta. Mesa. Bolalin was thrown off the vehicle and hit his head on the sidewalk.

Jeannette Andrade

Patient . . .

Passage A12

fined for 15 days at the hospital because of her heart ailment, she added.

On July 9, she was discharged from the hospital. That night, she had a fever which she said she ignored because she thought she was just having a relapse.

The pain in her privates, however, persisted for weeks. Dilcon said she knew it because she thought it was due to the stitches she got after childbirth.

On July 21, Dilcon said she decided to check her privates. She noticed that there seemed to be something inside it, prompting her to go to Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center the following day for a checkup.

At the outpatient department, Dilcon said she was examined by Dr. Nerissa Cabral, another OB-GYNer, who explained a piece of her uterus grew out from her privates.

According to Dilcon's complaint, the doctor "looked and was already seeing."

She added that Cabral told her that she could have died of infection had the piece not been removed immediately.

North Korea set to fire more missiles

SEOUL—NORTH KOREA WAS ON TUESDAY reportedly preparing to fire more short-range missiles, a move seen as an attempt to boost its bargaining position ahead of regional talks on ending its nuclear weapons programs.

Analysts say the missiles serve as a reminder of the North's ability to saddle regional security but were not enough to halt growing momentum for dialogue after the reclusive state announced it was willing to head back to the negotiating table.

Yonhap news agency quoted a government source as saying the North had fired five short-range missile of its east coast on Monday and that there were indications of more to come.

"There have been indications that the North is getting ready to fire more short-range missiles from the west coast," the source was quoted as saying.

The North has issued a warning for vessels to stay out of its coastal waters during daylight hours from Oct. 13-16, Japan's coast guard said.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, speaking on Monday, said Washington would continue its efforts to end nuclear weapons on the peninsula.

"Our goals remain the same. We intend to work toward a nuclear-free Korean peninsula," she told a news conference in Belfast. "Our consultation with our partners and allies continues unabated. It is unaffected by the behavior of North Korea." North Korean state media has so far made no comment about the missile launches, which in the past have often been accompanied by strident commentary attacking governments it considers out to do it harm...usually those of the United States, Japan and South Korea.

"If it is true, then it is very regrettable, but I am not in a position to comment on this any further now," Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama said of the missile launches.

South Korean officials played down the launches, saying those were often part of routine military drills. Reuters

China's billionaires rise despite crisis

BEIJING—CHINA'S SUPER-RICH have bounced back from the financial crisis with a vengeance, and China now has more known dollar billionaires than any other country but the United States, according to a new report released on Tuesday.

The annual Hurun Report said China has 130 known dollar billionaires, up from 101 last year. The number in the US is 359 while Russia has 32 and India 24, according to Forbes magazine.

China's rich are getting richer, with the average wealth on the list $577 million, up almost one-third from last year, said compiler Rupert Hoogewerf.

"With the greatest wealth destruction in the west of the last 70 years, we've seen China back the trend and the wealth seems to be still growing," Hoogewerf told Reuters on the sidelines of an event to unveil the 2009 rich list.

"They've put the credit crunch behind them," he said. "The key driver has been urbanization. You've got all these cities being built, and then requires property developers, iron and steel manufacturers. The latest thing is cars."

Topping the list was Wang Chuanfu, chair of electric car and battery maker BYD Co. Ltd. in which US billionaire Warren Buffet holds a stake, with an estimated personal wealth of $3.1 billion. He was also the fastest riser from last year, up 100 places.

Second place went to Zhong Shi and family, owners of paper recycler Nine Dragons Paper, while in third place was Ba Shangmao and family, owner of Hainan Property Holdings Ltd.

Huang Guangyu, who founded GOME Electrical Appliances Holdings Ltd. and owns collated property businesses, sank to 176th place from the top position he held last year. He is currently being probed for alleged financial irregularities.

Hoogewerf said the actual number of dollar billionaires could be higher than estimated.

"Where there are super-discoves, or perhaps they haven't come to the surface," he said. "Hiding said that, the transparency of wealth... is more very much in the open. There's many more listed companies."

Hoogewerf said people who profitably should have been listed, but about whose wealth not enough is known, included Liu Chuanzhi, chair of the world's No. 4 PC maker Lenovo, and Chen Sheng, founder of Hainan Airlines.

China's ruling Communist Party sees unchecked entrepreneurs and private business people as capitalist exploiters, but now welcomes them since has reluctant leader Deng Xiaoping began landmark economic reforms in the 1970s. Reuters

Sarkozy's son, 23, ignites uproar over plum job

PARIS—HE'S 23 AND HAS no college degree, and he's angling for a plum job overseeing France's premier business district. Jean Sarkozy, whose papa is the nation's president, is likely to get what he wants.

Outraged critics are crying nepotism, and say the brash bid by President Nicolas Sarkozy's son is an affront to France's egalitarian values. Leftists are decrying the prospect of the wealthy "hereditary elite" entrenching itself even more intimately with the realms of big business.

Jean Sarkozy's conservative backers insisted on Monday that he's qualified to chair EPAD, the quasi-governmental agency that manages the La Défense financial district on the western outskirts of Paris. Some 150,000 people commute to work in the sprawling complex of skyscrapers that houses the headquarters of some of Europe's biggest companies, such as oil giant Total and bank Societe Generale.

JEAN SARKOZY

Sarkozy, whose round lines, expansive mannerisms and ear-to-ear grin can recall those of his dad, is readying bars at the forthcoming. He is also the main candidate for the EPAD chairmanship. It's a job Nicolas Sarkozy once held himself.

"If he did not have the name he has, would he be where he is today?" asked Socialist Segolene Royal, who lost to Nicolas Sarkozy in 2007 elections for the French presidency. Speaking on RTL radio, she said she was "shocked" by the bid. AP

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WORLDBRIEFS

Pentagon rushing bunker-buster bomb

WASHINGTON—The Pentagon is speeding up delivery of a colossal bomb designed to destroy hidden weapons factories buried underground and shielded by 4,530 kg of reinforced concrete. The 13-ton behemoth—called the "massive ordnance penetrator," or MOP—will be the largest non-nuclear bomb in the United States arsenal and carry 2,400 kg of explosives. The bomb is about 10 times more powerful than the weapon it is designed to replace. The Pentagon has requested nearly $58 million to speed up placement of the bomb aboard the B-2 Stealth bomber, and officials say the bomb could be fielded as soon as next summer. AP

'New' Jackson single is actually 18 years old

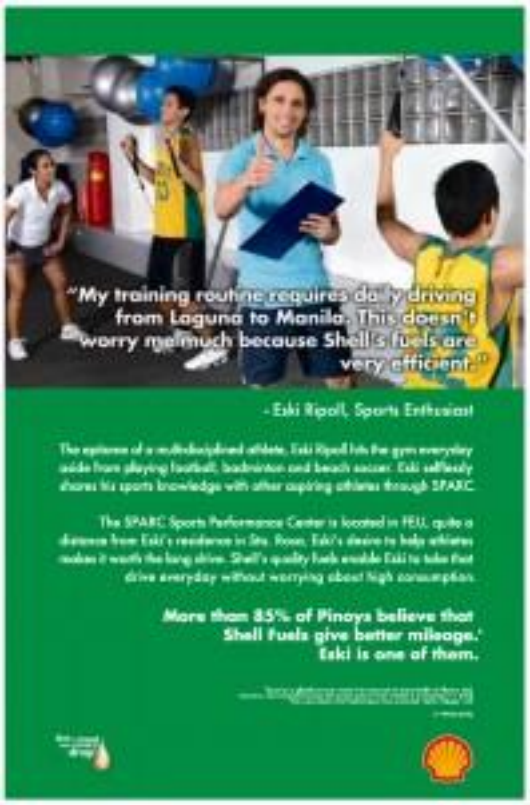
LOS ANGELES—Michael Jackson didn't live to see after all. Hours after the pop singer's first posthumous single "This Is It" was released amid great hype on Monday, it emerged that the long-lost tune recorded 18 years ago by another Puerto Rican singer. The song dates back to 1980, when it was known as "I Never Heard"—a co-write between Jackson and Paul Anka—and intended for inclusion on an ABBA album. But the pair fell out. Jackson took the master tapes and Anka got them back. The song was eventually released in 1991 after being mixed in with an unreleased Latin singer named Stevie Rios. Both "I Never Heard" and "This Is It" share the same vocal and lyrics line, although the latter track boasts new overdubs from Jackson's brothers. Reuters

Netanyahu: No war crimes trials for Israelis

JERUSALEM—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday vowed never to allow Israeli leaders or soldiers to stand trial on war crimes charges over their actions during last winter's military offensive in the Gaza Strip, turning down a recommendation by a United Nations report in a keynote address to parliament. Netanyahu's hawkish remarks—and his decision to open the high-profile speech with remarks on the report—rolled out the deep distrust felt among Israeli leaders after a UN commission accused Israel of intentionally harming civilians when it launched a massive attack in Gaza to stop years of rocket fire. "This distortion (report) written by this distorted committee, undermines Israel's right to defend itself. This report encourages terrorism and threatens peace," Netanyahu said in his address at the opening of parliament's winter session. AP

Death toll in Pakistan suicide blast rises to 43

PESHAWAR—The death toll from a suicide bombing carried out by a teenage boy who struck in a busy market in northwest Pakistan has risen to 43, officials said on Tuesday. The bomber, wearing a vest packed with explosives, flung himself at a military convoy as it passed through a busy market in Shangla district on Monday, in the fourth deadly attack blamed on Taliban rebels in eight days. AFP



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The WORLD

Lilia Lamerse B. Gueco

Americans win Nobel economics

Ostrom is 1st woman to win prize

STOCKHOLM—A US ACADEMIC who proved that communities can tramp state control and corporations became the first woman to win the Nobel Prize in economics on Monday, sharing it with an expert on how companies make decisions whose work could influence post-crisis regulation.

OSTROM

Elinor Ostrom of Indiana University defied conventional wisdom with studies that showed that user-managed properties—such as community fish stocks or woodland areas—more often than not were better run than standard theories predicted.

University of California, Berkeley economist Oliver Williamson, the other winner, looked at how incentives within companies, government and other organizations affect decisions, adding human dimensions such as social norms to a field often thought of in terms of a hypothetical perfect market.

The two will share the fresh Swedish Academy of Sciences award of 10 million Swedish crowns ($1.4 million) prize.

Before Ostrom, the previously accepted view was that common property was poorly managed and should be either regulated centrally or privatized.

"Since we have found that bureaucracies sometimes do not have the correct information while citizens and users of resources do, we hope it helps encourage a sense of capacity and power," Ostrom told a news conference via telephone.

After a week of Nobel drama that included the gasp-inducing selection of US President Barack Obama for the peace prize, the economics category risked being an anticlimax.

But the choice of a woman for a prize traditionally dominated by men added a final twist to this year's awards, drawing again the Nobel committees' penchant for springing surprises.

"There are many many people who have struggled mightily and to be chosen for this prize is a great honor and I'm still a little bit in shock," Ostrom, a professor in political science, told the news conference.

Studies of how organizations function sound dry but the examples that popper Ostrom's work are anything but. A rolled out to print: grassbeds in Mongolia, China and Russia. Reuters

Genesis LIGHT TOWER

BUSINESS

Edu Rial O. Marcelo • Associate Editor Corres S. Mariano

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Exports dropped 21% to $3.47B in Aug.

Shipments in first 8 months declined 30% to $34.45B

By Rosemil W. Dorotan

PHILIPPINE EXPORTS POSTED A 21-PERCENT YEAR-ON-year drop in value to $3.472 billion in August due to weak sales of electronic products, according to the National Statistics Office.

The NSO reported that exports had been declining for 11 straight months since the domestic economy started to feel the effects of the global financial crisis.

The decline in August was the slowest since June, when exports declined 24.8 percent.

Still, shipments in August slightly improved by 4.9 percent from that of July when export revenue hit $3.311 billion.

With the August figure, cumulative export revenues in the first eight months reached $24.094 billion—a 30.3-percent drop from the $34.454 billion recorded in the same period last year.

In August alone, electronics prod-

EXPORTS /A

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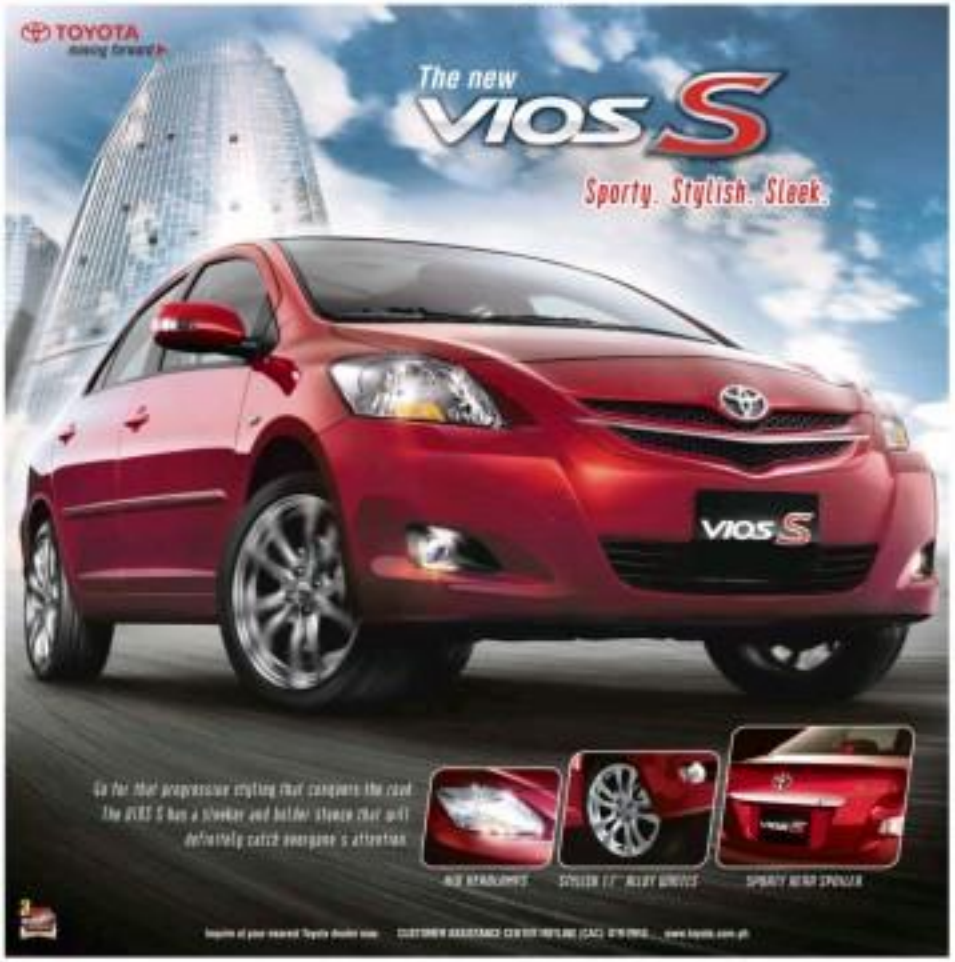
- **Biz Buzz:** Meralco bidding war redux /B2
- **Inflation to stay within healthy levels, BSP says** /B5



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Meralco bidding war redux

POKE HAS BEEN GOING around since last week that the Lopez family is open to selling its remaining 12.4 percent stake in Meralco, or it just ready to put its power-generating glory days behind it and "move on" to other business-related things.

According to sources, the divestment plan calls for the eldest of the storied family to name "its successor(s)" to hold for the crucial minority stake in the country's largest electricity distributor.

Because the Lopezes are linked with PLDT's Manny Pangilinan on the Meralco board, he will almost certainly be included in the divestment process, if it proceeds as described by our sources. Pangilinan has, after all, a right of first refusal over the Lopezes' stake by virtue of a deal made when he rode to the family's rescue as its "white knight" earlier this year.

But the Lopezes also know that competition for the Meralco stake is good for the company's share price, and having a single buyer for the entire stake just gives them the best bang for their buck (or shares, in this case).

So, according to our source, the Lopezes may just invite San Miguel Corp. president Ramon Ang to join the bidding in the hope that this well-known, business-savvy lawman "BAP and "MVP" will yield a better price for the family.

As current prices, the Lopez family's remaining Meralco stake is worth about P25 billion. But at the peak of the SM-MVP bidding war (which saw the company's share price rise to P302.50 apiece), this same stake would be worth a whopping P45 billion.

DARIO L. DIGNOS

Biz Buzz
By the staff

And the exit price is...

THE RUMOR ABOUT a looming Lopez divestment from Meralco is clearly not reason why the stock is in play at the best bourse. In recent days, its share price has crept back up toward the P200 per-share.

Modest sentiment is skewed in favor of MVP-led First Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong, which has the right of first refusal on the block for maybe some to a group allied to it.

Of course, the party who gets the Lopez block will gain a decisive majority in Meralco, and will also likely trigger the mandatory tender requirement (which both MVP and BAP have been trying to avoid).

That being said, our analyst believes that anything between the P180 to P200 per-share level, may be attractive enough for those long-expecting to cash out of Meralco. —Dario L. Dignos

The new Midas

THE LARGE PRICE of plasma manufacturer Mascardor Plastics has doubled in the stock market in the last two days—surging to another 52 percent yesterday—as bourse pundits speculated on what property tycoon Ramon Tuazon Mascardor Bolivar "Bobby" Ungpingco would use the company as a backdoor listing vehicle for. Many are of course expecting his property development unit Alpha Land Corp., to infuse more cornerstone project on her in the new office and commercial development zones MRT Magallanes—to get into the thing.

A share turnover up to Mascardor at the market yesterday—by Nick Big Pledge Co. Inc. (big-ACE) investment, which is likewise in Ungpingco shopping mix.

PDS Doppler's technology firm Philtard and MRT-7 concessionaire leading the pack of small-cap companies that recently rallied, the stock market is looking for the next stock to speculate on—especially with First Pacific Co. Ltd.'s Manuel V. Pangilinan's "Midas touch" seemingly demarcated for the investors. Boris C. Dutchess

Candidate Gary, the spoiled ballot magnet

FINANCE Secretary Margarita B. Gutierrez is the latest Cabinet member for election officer in 2010 race to different interest groups up in the Philippines was one of the few countries in Asia to duck recession amid the global economic downturn, growing at a solid 1 percent growth in gross domestic product of 1.5 percent after a revised first quarter growth of 0.9 percent.

It said the government's P200-billion stimulus package and stimulus would further boost economic Filipino workers supported the domestic economy.

In the meantime, the peso is seen ending the year at 46.50 to the US dollar, as conditions there provide a buffer against dilute created by a widening government budget deficit as well as continuing trade shortfalls.

Across the major industrial economies, the research said there was reason for cautious optimism to expect recovery in GDP growth, industrial production and trade had improved relative to previous quarters.

"Emerging Asia is spearheading the recovery, with its growth prospects are ramping fast to run by different positions.

Last week, the League of Councilors came out with a paid print ad calling for Trese to run for the vice presidency (and before that, the Pasig Business Association of the Philippines published their own print ad, pushing for the Former chief to pursue a seat in the Senate).

"I respect the councilors' popularity-ratings but before I will decide to run," Trese said.

In previous months, he said his running-mate was free to make a campaign within.

"Apparently, some people are more going for than I can," he said, referring to the ads.

It seems Trese' supporters need to work harder, especially the League of Councilors whose "Magnificent 7" slate—a reference to "Magnificent 7" Trese" probably a spoiler for spoiled ballots, as his middle name is "S."

But the councilors got it right in a second reference with "Magnificent 'Gary' Trese"—the former Philippine Army sergeant-turned-actor used Magnificent for election purposes. Manuel M. Dominguez

Bank sees 1.5% economic growth

Early exits from pump-priming efforts may derail recovery

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOCAL BANKING GIANT Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. sees the economy expanding by 1.5 percent this year, aided by reconstruction efforts in the aftermath of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng."

In the latest of economic outlook of its research department headed by Ederaan Bautista, the banks has projected that reliabilitation efforts following the devastating tropical cyclones will fuel government spending.

"External consumption is also seen to pick up in typhoon storm-stricken areas," the report, which was dated Oct. 9.

The report noted that the prepped up by the relatively healthy rates of its financial systems, fiscal and monetary rules. "Local banks have been partially ruled by governments and central banks across the region and the rapid restructured as to keep low, respectcontained economies," the research said.

Metrobank added that financial influences continued to improve as financial institutions demand by the collapse of Lehman Brothers in September but now seen now begin to normalized.

"Another sign of financial stabilization is seen in either in major stock indices. The recovery in equities may be a leading indicator that the extent of the downturn is now over, even as stock prices remain below pre-September 2008 peaks," it said.

But the research also pointed out that any unsolicitated exit from global pump-priming efforts may lead to a prolonged

BMB, B2

LPG bill opposed

By Amy S. Bautz

INDEPENDENT RETAILERS AND refiner of liquified petroleum gas are opposing the LPG bill, saying that will only bring hard the industry to a monopoly in the oil market.

"The LPG bill, if passed, will not promote public welfare and safety. It will threaten the interest of oil companies supporting the bill and consumer interests, with the view of eliminating independent players and bring back monopoly," said the LPG Marketers Association (LPGMA) and the LPG Refillers Association (LPGRA) in a joint bill.

The two groups also claimed that the pending LPG bill would only inhibit the consumers' right to choose between price/brands.

Three groups said a consumer should not be prevented from moving to non-expensive LPG brand by not allowing "the exchange of an empty LPG cylinder of brancing a different brand. That would be unnecessary."

"The oil companies supporting the LPG bill say consumers do not own their LPG cylinders and must therefore purchase LPG only from them. That would only be the monopoly of these companies," they added.

LPGMA and LPGRA further stressed that a cheaper LPG did not necessarily mean it is unsafe, standard or outside.

"Independent players will reasonably priced LPG because their profit margins are less and that their distribution chains are simpler, " they said.

They noted that as of Oct. 12, the average price of an 11 kilogram Gasul LPG was P580 while Shellane was P590. Those being sold by the independent players were only P520 per cylinder.

The groups also questioned allegations that there were an million substandard LPG cylinder in the market. The allegation, they claimed, was being peddled in order,

LPG B2

3 firms get BOI nod

By Abigail L. Ho

THREE FIRMS IN THE PACKAGing and smoked fish industries have been granted non-pioneer status incentives by the Board of Investments for their projects worth P579.54 million.

The biggest of the three projects was the corrugated carton boxes production facility of Iloilo Flexiboard Packaging Mfrs. Inc., which received a P224.62-million investment.

Located in Sta. Barbara, Iloilo City, the plant has a capacity to produce 24 million boxes a year. These boxes will be supplied to banana producers in the region exported to Japan, Russia, China, and the Middle East.

Starting this month, with commercial operations expected to be in full swing this month, the banana factory facility will provide jobs to 185 individuals.

Also granted BOI incentives was Allied Pacific Packaging Solutions Corp., which is likewise engaged in the manufacture of corrugated boxes.

The Cebu-based firm started operating last month, employing 18 people. It is expected to produce more than 13.3 million pieces of corrugated boxes a year.

These boxes will be sold mainly to export-oriented companies in the region.

Another company that secured BOI approval was 21 Century Smoked Fish Corp., a smoked fish exporter in the province of Iloilo.

Once operational by September 2010, the project is expected to employ 140 people and process 840 metric tons of smoked fish annually for export and domestic wholesale distribution.

Being a 40-percent Chinese firm, it is required to export at least 70 percent of its output.

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Bank sees 1.5% economic growth

From page B1

downturn and deterioration of the economy.

Heightened pre-technical measures were also threatening the weak trade rebound. Furthermore, Metrobank said the escalated weakness in housing markets could also dim prospects for the global economy while card crash in Dubai may worsen with the resurgence in world oil prices.

Worst storms

Worst storms instead coordination of policies will still be necessary to ensure that recovery does not revert to stagnation or even double-dip recession," it said.

LPG . . .

From page B1

"When did the figure-crunchers in this property-focused town become so well-heeled? Could this be exaggerated to outweigh the passage of the LPG bill to homeowners?" they asked.

Also, the pending LPG bill does not address the issue of fees related to LPG, said LPGMA and LPGHA.

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BSP intervenes in forex market to halt peso rise

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP) has been intervening in the foreign exchange market in the past few days to prevent a sharp appreciation of the peso, making sure the increase in consumption is maintained to help prop up the economy.

This was according to market sources, who said that without the BSP intervention, the peso could have been much stronger than its closing value on Oct. 9.

"Yes, the BSP has been intervening in the trading," said one trader who asked not to be named.

A market analyst, who also talked on condition of anonymity, said the central bank was avoiding a steep appreciation of the peso to encourage household dependents on remittances from family members working overseas to spend more.

"One-third of spending by Filipino households is supported by remittances. A weaker exchange rate will be beneficial to OFW families because this will increase their spending power," the analyst said.

Because of the lingering effects of the global turmoil, the Philippine economy needed to step up consumption, the analyst said, as he said, was to avoid having an exchange rate that would discourage families of overseas Filipino workers from spending.

The peso yesterday closed at P47.875 against the dollar, up 11 centavos from the previous day's finished P48.05.

The peso last week reached 46.66 against the greenback, its highest level for the year on the back of rising dollar inflows.

The BSP said the dollar inflow comes in the form of foreign portfolio investments, which have started to increase following reports that the global economy was starting to recover from the worst of the crisis.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the peso might continue to strengthen due to remittance inflows, which continued to grow even at the peak of the global crisis.

"Investors are re-grasping their risk appetite because of talks about recovery, and emerging markets like the Philippines will benefit from higher investment inflows," Tetangco said.

The BSP chief said the Philippines was experiencing rising foreign exchange inflows in order to prime up the appreciation of the local currency.

Monetary officials, however, would not admit whether the BSP actually intervened in the foreign exchange market yesterday. Nonetheless, they said it was the BSP's policy to allow a market-determined exchange rate. But it will intervene in the market to avoid sharp and sudden appreciation or depreciation of the local currency.

"Too much volatility of the peso disrupts budget planning by importers and exporters, BSP officials explained

US dollar inflow pushing up value of local currency

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

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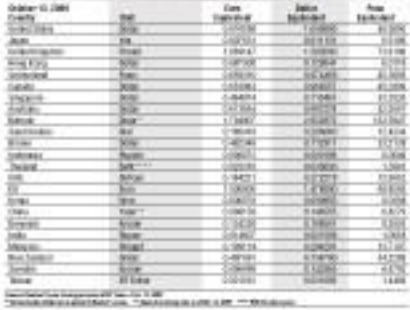

Inflation to stay within healthy levels, BSP says

By Ma Estelle V. Matias

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS yesterday tried to ease people's concern over the rising prices of selected agricultural products due to supply disruptions caused by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng."

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the price increases seen at the moment would likely be temporary.

Just even with the problems created by the calamities, Tetangco said, inflation would stay within benign levels this year and the next.

The central bank expects inflation to fall within or below official targets this year (between 3.5 and 4.5 percent) and in 2010 (between 3.1 and 5.1 percent), Tetangco said.

According to the latest estimates of the BSP, inflation may average at 3 percent this year and 3.4 percent next year, he added.

"We don't see these indications creating a threat to inflation targets at this point," Tetangco told reporters Tuesday night.

Following heavy rains in southern Luzon brought about by Pepeng and due to transportation problems to metro cities in Metro Manila in the aftermath of Ondoy, prices of selected food products, especially vegetables, have sharply increased.

Annual inflation settled at 3.7 percent in September, slightly higher than the 3.1 percent in August, which was a 22-year low.

Price movements in September brought average inflation for the first nine months of the year to 3.4 percent.

The BSP said inflation already has turned out in August and would unfold more from there, that the increase would not be enough to breach inflation targets, Tetangco said.

Monetary officials believe that inflation would remain benign as the global economy recovers gradually from the global turmoil. The lingering risks would temper the rise in consumption, officials said, thereby keeping overall inflation benign.

Tetangco said the BSP's monetary stance remained appropriate at the moment. He said the central bank had ample room to maintain a low-interest rate environment because of tempered inflation. There was no pressure to increase key policy rates at the moment, he said.

In August, the central bank's monetary board decided to keep its key policy rates at historic lows of 4 and 6 percent for overnight borrowing and lending.

With its low policy rates, the BSP hopes to spur banks to reduce their own lending rates to encourage borrowings which, in turn, would support consumption and investments, thereby accelerating growth of the overall economy.

Chemphil sells interests in LMG, PEC

By Doris C. Dumlao

CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES OF THE PHILIPPINES Inc. (Chemphil) is selling its entire equity in publicly listed industrial chemical manufacturer LMG Chemicals and personal care products maker Pro-Intervets Topsholdco Corp. (PITC) to generate about P279 million in fresh working capital.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (exchange), Chemphil said it was selling its stake in LMG for P1.302 per share or a total of P252.97 million to Batangas City-based industrial conglomerate LFD Development Corp.

This implies the sale of 343 million shares or about 76 percent of LMG's outstanding stock at a slight discount to market price. (2BE yesterday closed at the stock market unchanged at P1.30 per share at the local stock market.

The company also announced the sale of its 51 percent stake in PEC—maker of the "Mom Jo Pronto" soap brand and its variants; and distributor of baby cologne "Dreamee"—for P1.76 per share or a total of P36.67 million.

The transaction is a management buyout as the buyers were Ma. Maita Ordoñez, president of PEC and also a shareholder of Chemphil, and Alexandra Garcia, chief operating officer and shareholder of PEC. Ordoñez had initiated from the deliberation and approval of said sale at the Chemphil level, the exchange said.

The deal on PEC is expected to be fully executed and implemented on or before Dec. 30 this year. "The transaction is expected to generate capital gains in favor of the corporation," the disclosure said.

Galoc to ship out 600,000 oil barrels

By Acty R. Batino

GALOC PRODUCTION CO. WLL (GPC) EXpects to ship out at least 600,000 barrels of light crude from the Galoc oil field off Palawan, according to an industry source.

The source, who declined to be named, said the GPC-chartered tanker Le Cirque No. 9 and would soon ship out 300,000 barrels of oil in a repeat buyer from Korea.

GPC is also negotiating the sale of another 300,000 barrels of Palawan light crude with a buyer from Thailand, the source added.

Just last month, the source said, the consortium operating the Galoc oil field was able to ship cargo No. 6, containing 320,432 barrels of Palawan light crude.

The crude oil has also been sold to Shell Eastern Trading, the Philippines' largest oil refiner and retailer, the source added.

GPC, majority owner and operator of the Galoc oil field, holds a 56.25-percent working interest in Service Contract 14-C.

The oil field commenced production around 11,000 barrels of oil a day, down from its pre-shutdown levels of 12,000 to 14,000 barrels of oil a day.

From October 2008 when it started operations, to mid-last month this year, the oil field's output has already reached more than 2 million barrels.

To further production of the oil field, GPC is now planning to drill two additional wells as part of the consortium's Phase II development plan for SC14-C.

The additional wells this year is slotted in the northern portion of the structure to boost production and access undeveloped reserves.

In support of these efforts, consortium member Mole PetroLeum Ltd. targets to boost a "more current and meaningful understanding of the developed reservoirs, the undeveloped reserves and any other remaining potential in the field."

The Australian firm has a 10.86-percent stake in GPC.

PRIME MAKATI PROPERTY FOR SALE
INVITATION TO BID

[redacted]

[redacted]

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

[redacted]

Exports dropped 21% to $3.47B

From page B1

area—which accounted for 59.3 percent of total outbound cargoes—fell by 10.7 percent year-on-year to $2.058 billion mainly due to the decrease in shipments of components and devices.

Compared to receipts in July, electronics improved by 7.5 percent from $1.915 billion.

Receipts from the country's second top export—which were still articles of apparel and clothing accessories, representing 4 percent of total shipments—slid by 26.1 percent year-on-year to $137.38 million.

Woodcraft and furniture, which was third with 2.7 percent of total cargoes, shrank by 7.3 percent to $94.26 million.

The fourth top export with a share of 2.3 percent—automotive wiring sets—rose by 8.3 percent to $79.29 million.

Fifth at 1.7 percent of the total were other products made from imported materials, which increased by 18.6 percent to $60.28 million.

Other top earners were coconut oil, down by 19.6 percent to $46.07 million; metal components, down by 20.3 percent to $46.59 million; and nuts, down by 16.3 percent to $35.52 million.

Manufactured goods, representing 60.9 percent of receipts, went down to aggregate value by 16.5 percent to $3.052 billion in August.

Agro-based products posted a total receipts of $170.21 million—a decrease of 19.3 percent.

Receipts from mineral products reached $116.45 million, falling by 52.4 percent.

In August, the two biggest markets for Philippine goods both showed shrinking orders for shipments.

Cargoes sent to the United States made up the biggest batch at 18.1 percent of total outbound traffic, but the value decreased by 3.9 percent to $628.02 million.

Exports to Japan followed at 15.9 percent of total, going down by 21.8 percent to $553.91 million.

Shipments to the Netherlands were third at 13.4 percent of total, up by 13.7 percent to $464.39 million. With a report from AFP

Shares ...

From page B1

"After a good run-up last week, there's no positive catalyst that can prop up trading today. People [are] also still assessing the macro- and micro-economic impact of the recent typhoons," Erwin Rubio of SB Equities told Dow Jones Newswires.

In the days ahead, the market may likely trade between 2,900 and 2,970 points, Rubio said.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone was unchanged at P2,610, while Energy Development Corp. also stayed at P4.75.

Filinvest Land fell 2.09 percent to 0.94 centavos.

AFP

PNB'S WEALTH MULTIPLIER PROVIDES FLEXIBILITY TO DEPOSITORS

[redacted]

FOTON Green Machines: The MPX experience

[redacted]

PNB RECEIVES 555 BEST COLLECTING BANK FOR OFW REMITTANCES AWARD

[redacted]

MOTORING

Allie Cesar D. Manganaan

VEHICLES waiting through waist-level floodwaters created by continuous rain brought by Typhoon 'Ondoy' in Cainta, Rizal

8 signs the car you're eyeing has been underwater

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE MARKET EXPECTS it to happen, especially right after monumental floods in the past couple of weeks in this island submerged many brand-new cars by the thousands. What we mean is the understandable wariness of buying used cars, and the experience of selling them at this time. A quick background check on the owners selling those cars, particularly on where they live (or used to live), can help either quell or intensify buyers' fears.

Sellers can always deny their cars were ever used deep in trouble when the storms came (even when in truth, the cars were), and buyers may not always believe that sellers got their cars out of harm's way (even when in truth, they did).

So when does the truth lie, and how do we find it?

During last week's press conference organized by the 67 insurance companies belonging to the Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association (Pira), the ensuring truth was that these insurance firms have declared "losses" of P1 billion on motor vehicle claims that seem "Katrina"-level (on top of the ongoing P30 billion on insurance claims from property damage and loss) brought about by Typhoon "Ondoy" alone (damages caused by Typhoon "Pepeng" are still being assessed). Insofar as motoring-related claims insurance companies, and some mechanical engineers, on how to detect the telltale signs of water damage in motor vehicles:

1 Look for rust. Lito Lanuza, first vice president and head of the technical department of Standard Insurance (the country's biggest auto insurer), says buyers should look in the small nooks/crevices and dashboard brackets as well as the brackets of the steering columns. If these are painted portions reveal rust, it's a sure sign that those parts got in contact with water or moisture.

Perman Lao, technical editor of Top Gear Philippines magazine, says that for model cars, unless the body panels were scratched, dents or have rusted, rust wouldn't form that easily. Most model cars are well-protected against rust, with their whole body shell applied with anti-rust compounds. However, damages caused by collisions, over time, develop rust if not repainted properly.

Rust can also form on the rear wheel well of the rear quarter panel, or on the running board. This is particularly true for those with double-wall body structures, which tend to corrode more, particularly if water accumulates between the two walls and are not immediately removed.

Check the seats and seat belts together by owners. Lanuza advises that pieces on the driver's seat, as well as seat railings and reclining mechanisms, should also be inspected. These areas are not supposed to develop rust because of their protected locations, and if they do, then the car has encountered a water problem.

Lift or remove the carpets to see the metals hidden beneath. Michael Ildefonso, vice chair of Pira, advises buyers to look deep. But a good detailing job can conceal rust problems, he said.

2 Find the interior (inspect the interior moldings if they have been arranged well or not, e.g. carpets). Look for the ceiling clips and check if they are not positioned properly. Look for signs of scratches on the ceiling as well.

3 Look at the gauges and instrumentation panel. Do they look cloudy or dusty from the inside? That may mean moisture or dirt have contacted the gauges.

4 If the seller agrees, ask that the plastic cover molding of the B pillar be removed for you to inspect. Lao says that though this is not conclusive, some cars that were not cleaned well may have stains or traces of mud in this area. Note: Not all sellers will allow you to do this, though.

5 Inspect the engine bay area and other hidden portions of the vehicle such as the fire-walling, rack-and-pinion, and the upper part of the cross members, and look for water and mud stains, which leave a distinctive mark, Lao reveals.

"River mud such as what the Marikina River dumped on the streets has a yellow-brown hue, while normal roadside mud is dust is grayish in color," Lao observes.

Look for signs of mud (as well as rust) in other concealed portions of the car, such in the doors, hood release and fuel release cables and the trunk area.

Even the road kit can be revealing. "Some tools are not plated, therefore, not rust-resistant," Lao says. "Fine rust on the exposed screw-type tools and the trunk toner for water and mud stains," he says.

6 Too late for the detailing. Ernesto Echauz, chair of Standard Insurance, says that if mud stays inside a car for more just a few weeks, corrosion already takes place. Thus, a car that shows evidence of corrosion is a car that has been quite neglected.

7 It still smells. If you have a real, keen sense of smell, the musty odor of a flooded interior may linger in a detailed car.

8 Ask the seller the last time the reliable was serviced. Ask for the billing statements, too. Lawyer Honorato Ramada, Pira chair, says an honest agent or car owner would be able to show you all these.

And what happens if you buy haphazardly at this time? You may end up with a car that costs more to repair than is run. Ramada says that the cost for interior detailing, changing carpets, replacing wiring, greasing of ball joints and the computer bus may range from P15,000 to P150,000.

Lao says things can go from bad to worse. On top of that, a water-damaged air-con module can cost more than P20,000 to repair/replace; the ABS module at over P10,000, the airbag module also at over P10,000, and the transmission control module at around the same price. Model 2002 and up cars may cost P10,000 more for the body-control module (a.k.a. multiplexer, where electricity for signal lights, park lights, wipers, etc course through).

So, it really pays to be a bit of a sleuth (and maybe even a forensic expert) during these waterlogged times.

The quietly competitive Galant

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE MIDSIZE-sedan segment in this country was dominated by the Mitsubishi Galant line-exam. It was the only one available in the car market. But with the entry of the Nissan Cefiro (now phased out), Toyota Camry and Honda Accord, the Galant gradually lost market share. The Galant SE, unfortunately, failed to recover Mitsubishi's leadership position in the midsize executive car segment.

Now comes the 2010 Galant SE in Mitsubishi Motors Philippines' bid to regain lost ground. Launched last July, the newest Galant (P1,888,000) is loaded with high-tech features as standard equipment such as a GPS navigation system and Bluetooth. These high-tech features set the 2010 Galant apart from the competition and altogether may constitute its main selling point because technically, it is a facelift of the 2004 model.

A curve dimple-edged grille and new Lexus-like LED-type taillights are the major modifications of the exterior. The power sunroof and side mirrors with integrated LED-type turn lights and powerfold functions look familiar.

ON THE ROAD

Aside Sevilla-Mendoza

2010 MITSUBISHI Galant SE: a distinctive, sophisticated look

IN THE COCKPIT: user-friendly controls, black power-adjust leather seats

DVD/MP3/AM-FM tuner with Dolby Digital 5.1 theater has 12-amp speakers with a 10-inch subwoofer and a center speaker, but no auxiliary audio jack. Ironmatic climate control, two cupholders in the front center console and two more in the rear armrests, separate rear aircon vents and an automatic retractable rear sunshade complete the interior arrangements.

The Galant ranks among the sweetest sedans in its class. The rear seat offers passengers more than adequate headroom and legroom, but can't be folded to increase the trunk's cargo space. Although the seating position is low, the leather seats are comfortable and should remain so during a long trip, thanks also to the all-wheel independent suspension system with stabilizer bars fore and aft. The high beltline gives passengers a secure feeling and visibility is good all around.

Trusty

The 2010 Galant is propelled by Mitsu's trusty 2.4-liter, 16-valve, DOHC 4-in-line 4G69 Mivec (Mitsubishi Innovative Valve timing and Electronic Control system) engine that produces 162 peak horsepower and 218.4 Newton-meters max torque. This 4G69 engine is more powerful and more efficient than its predecessors because the dimensions of the cylinder bore and stroke, pistons, intake and exhaust valves were increased and a dual-mantrifold catalytic converter and aluminum intake manifold were added. Variable valve timing and computer-adjusted electronic transmission fuel efficiency, torque and low-end pickup while reducing exhaust emissions, Mitsubishi engineers claim.

The Mivec engine is paired with Mitsu's 4-speed Invecs-II (Intelligence and Innovative electronic control system) automatic transmission with Sportronic that adjusts gearshift timing to suit your driving style. For sporty driving, the Tiptronic shifters on the shift lever or the steering wheel allow you to change gears semi-manually.

THE 2.4-LITER, 16V Mig, 4-in-line Mivec engine

But the star of the car is the GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) navigation system that contains the Philippine road network and a direct voice to your destination visually through the in-dash monitor. The 2010 Galant SE is the only car in its class to have a fully functioning GPS nav system that is included in the car's SRP (suggested retail price.) I checked it out driving from Alabang in Muntinlupa to Manila and the road map directions on the monitor was accurate, if not distracting.

Bluetooth

Aside from GPS, the new Galant's audio-video system has Bluetooth connectivity with mobile phones so that access to your phone's directory as well as calling and making phone calls can be done through the steering wheel-mounted controls. Whatever is playing on the stereo speakers is interrupted by the phone mode once the phone is activated and will return as soon as the call is ended.

The Bluetooth connectivity can be counted among the Galant's safety features which includes dual SRS airbags, ABS with EBD on all four disc brakes, reverse camera with front and rear parking sensors, keyless entry with alarm system. But there is no stability control.

Bottom line, the 2010 Galant is not a car that will excite your senses. It is commuter car in quiet, understated tones of tony. It gives solid value for money as it offers high-tech features not found as standard equipment in other cars in its class and it rides nicely, is comfy and roomy and pleasant to drive.

THE REAR seat is roomy but (beat!) flat.

Svelte and more tempting E-Class

Text and photos by Charlie G. Bulaon

THE ARRIVAL OF THE NEW Mercedes-Benz E-Class Coupé is somewhat momentous for the Stuttgart-based automaker.

In a way, the car embodies the new of "clean up" that Mercedes-Benz has been doing in revising its vehicle lineup.

Case in point: The current—and soon-to-be-replaced—Mercedes-Benz CLK is something of an enigma, built around the C-Class platform, it was styled like the E-Class and priced somewhere in between. It sits in no man's wonder segment that has no direct competition from its fourteen rivals.

This should no longer happen with the arrival of the new E-Class Coupé that is expected to go head to head with upcoming Audi and BMW contenders.

Sporting finely drawn lines and elegant styling, the new E-Class Coupé is longer and wider than the car it replaces (though retaining the CLK's classic coupé profile that depressor with the B pillar).

MERCEDES-BENZ has just dished up the style and sport in the new E-Class Coupé.

CATS Motors Chair Greg Yu (left) and Vice President Bob Sloan are proud to announce that the E-Class Coupé is their second two-door model unveiled in a span of two months (D.C. Glass).

More rigid

Despite going up in size, Mercedes-Benz reported that the unit's body is 22 percent more rigid structurally. It's also more aerodynamic, thanks to a coefficient of drag of just 0.24, the lowest for any mass-produced car in the world, according to Mercedes-Benz.

Despite taking some design cues from the legendary "Pontoon" Coupé of 1953, the body rear quarters and a line that flows into the tips of the taillights) as do.

Globally, BMW and Daimler have been suffering double-digit declines this year while Audi has cut its sales contraction to slightly below 10 percent.

Thanks to the new E-Class saloon (that nearly doubled sales to 1,708 units), Mercedes-Benz's volumes in China grew by 56 percent to about 6,800 vehicles last month, albeit from a lower base than its two German rivals.

It shifted 1,400 cars from its top-of-the-line S-Class model that carries list margins, a gain of 12 percent. Sales of its SUV models jumped 73 percent to 1,200 vehicles.

This helped boost the brand's overall volumes in the first nine months by 47 percent to 45,400 vehicles.

"Mercedes-Benz is the fastest growing luxury brand in China, both in September and in the three quarters since January," a spokeswoman for Daimler said.

Daimler also sold some 1,200 Smart ForTwo since the brand was launched in April.

BMW boosted sales of its core brand by 35 percent to 7,458 vehicles in the month, and by 32 percent to 50,000 for the first nine months.

Audi gained 37 percent last month to over 15,000 vehicles—the first time it breached that level. That helped it easily crack the 100,000-mark through September, increasing volumes by a fifth to for this year.

Volkswagen's luxury brand is far more heavily dependent on China for its performance than Mercedes or BMW, thanks to VW's strong presence in the market over the past two decades and Audi's weak US sales compared to its two biggest competitors.

Recently, Audi said its Chinese joint venture partner began production of the Q5 SUV in Changchun, where it already builds the long-wheelbase versions of the A4 and A6 saloons.

Reuters

Mercedes-Benz grille

And of course, the grille: two horizontal bars supporting a huge Mercedes-Benz star (that has been a staple in the German automaker's two-door models.

Inside, the new E-Class Coupé gets a dose of high-end upholstery. While this is a four-seat car, the rear bucket seats are for occasional use only.

The new E-Class Coupé that goes on sale here in the Philippines is the E 350 Coupé AMG Sport, a 3.5-liter V6 variant that carries a price tag of P5,960 million.

With the 272 horsepower engine mated to a seven-speed automatic transmission, the variant is rated to reach 100 kph (from standstill) in just 6.3 seconds.

Cats Motors Inc. informed that this variant is equipped with speed-sensitive power steering, sports suspension, AMG 18-inch twin-spoke wheels, multicontour front seats with 3m fade, AMG body styling including floor mats.

THE E-CLASS Coupé's cabin design is modern and luxurious.

China a bright spot for German luxury automakers

FRANKFURT—THE BOOMING CHINese auto market continues to be one of the few bright spots for German luxury carmakers, which have drawn few benefits from a flurry of subsidy programs like the US "cash for clunkers" scheme.

Daimler's Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen's Audi and BMW's flagship BMW brand all posted year-on-year volume gains of above 35 percent in the country in September, they said recently.

CIK-FIA Asia-Pacific KF3 champ Jordan King is flanked by Asia Hanson (center) Miss Macau, second and third place, respectively.

Jordan King wins 2009 CIK-FIA Asia-Pacific KF3 Championship

FOR THE FIRST TIME, JORDAN King raced in the rain. The Briton, who consistently topped practice and qualifying sessions through out the weekend, saw his efforts rewarded with a well-deserved victory in the CIK-FIA Asia-Pacific KF3 Championship held at Macau's karting circuit in Coloane.

"I don't mind rain. I'm quick in the rain but I have never been out racing in the rain," he said following his win. When asked what was going through his mind before the race, King replied: "I was thinking about what lines to take on the roads. Once I was out on the rolling lap, I then tried to find those lines."

King, driving a Stanzello kart, added: "My engine was spinning in Vroom out of the hairpin. I had to adjust my carburetor to find which position was most perfect. Then water was beginning to seep into the engine, and towards the end it got worse but I managed to hold on."

King's lead was 0.233 seconds by Lap 17. When asked about the prospect of returning to Macau, King said: "I won't be in F3 in a month! Maybe in the next 2 to 3 years, we'll see what happens!"

By the flag, King had opened up a margin of 2.782 seconds from New Zealand karter Jake Walton. Hartono, driving a Tony Kart, dropped to 3rd place after the Finish lap but managed to grab 2nd by the flag. Challenging Hatton at every turn was 3rd placed karter Giuliano Xiesin, also in a Tony Kart. Xiesin, winner of the CIK-FIA KF3 World Cup last month, was looking for a very rare Hatton but to no avail.

Win a Prius in Toyota's Vios and Innova savings spree promo

TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES (TOYOTA Motor Philippines) launches the Toyota Sari-Sari Vios promo this month. With this promo, customers can enjoy more savings in three different ways: Pay Less, Buy Right and Pay Cash schemes. Furthermore, all Toyota customers will get the chance to win a Prius, the world's best-selling hybrid car, with every purchase of any Toyota vehicle during the promo period.

With the Pay Less scheme, clients of Toyota Financial Services (more-to-win) plan will enjoy low cash out and all in package. They can have the Vios 1.3E for only P65,000 (10 percent) down payment and the Innova J Gas for only P79,000. Down payment comprehensive insurance and three-year LTO registration are also given free, with no chattel mortgage. Additional discount and free baggage rack also come in with both models.

With the Pay Right scheme, clients can enjoy monthly plans for as low as P6,667 for the Vios 1.3 E and P9,878 for the Innova J Gas at 5.9 percent interest rate per annum (p.a.) with no chattel mortgage. Additional discount and free baggage rack also come in with both models.

With the Pay Cash scheme, customers can get as much as P40,000 discount, plus P5,000 insurance for Vios 1.3E and Innova gas variants; P35,000 discount for Vios 1.3 gas variants; and P68,000 discounts for all Innova diesel variants.

And to give an early Christmas treat, all customers of any Toyota model with purchases made within the period of Oct. 8-21 get the chance to win a Prius, the world's best-selling hybrid car and the first hybrid in the country. Grand raffle draw will be held on Nov. 13 this year.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. is country's leading automotive company. Based on the report of the (October of incomplete) 2009 figures, TMPC as of September 2009, it sold over 33,000 units since January, and has captured 34.2 percent market share. The Vios and Innova remain to be the country's top two best-selling vehicles with year-to-date sales of 8,940 units and 6,991 units, respectively.

For more information on Toyota's promo, visit any Toyota dealership nationwide or log on to Toyota's Savings Xpress at www.toyota.com.ph. Promo runs from Oct. 8 to 31 only. Visit any of Toyota's 37 dealers nationwide to enjoy Toyota's Savings Xpress.

Suzuki offers service assistance for flood-damaged vehicles

SUZUKI PHILIPPINES RECENTLY ANNOUNCED a special service assistance to Ondoy victims by offering 25 percent discount on flood-damaged parts and 20 percent discount on labor for repair of flood damaged vehicles.

Suzuki President Nobuaki Uchida said: "Our company philosophy has always been to offer our customers value-packed, high-quality products that enhance their quality of life. By offering this service assistance to Suzuki owners, we hope to help ease their recovery so that they can continue to enjoy the Suzuki way of life."

The special service assistance is available for current Suzuki vehicles like the APV Grand Vitara, Swift, SX4, Liana, Alto and Jimny models. To facilitate servicing, only units sold by authorized Suzuki dealers are eligible for the special discounts. Similarly, only customers with "Ondoy" flood-affected Suzuki vehicles are qualified for the service assistance.

The Suzuki flood assistance discount is available at the Metro Manila and Luzon dealers.

The Suzuki APV Type II SGL, a 7 seater family van, was recently chosen as the "2009 Van of the Year" by local automotive publication, CI Magazine. The Suzuki Alto, meanwhile, has recorded worldwide sales of 10 million units, and is the best selling car in India with an average of 20,000 units sold monthly.

In the Philippines, Suzuki is the only integrated automotive brand selling both automobiles and motorcycles through a nationwide dealer network.

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This Is What Draws The Line Between Investing And Just Buying.

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LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

How to write an effective fundraising appeal in these flooded times

There's no 'donor fatigue.' But make a donor feel part of a solution, not an open check book

By John L. Silva
Contributor

IN TEACHING GRANT WRITING, there's inevitably the question: "Isn't there donor fatigue?"

I always answer, there isn't. Donors, be it individuals or institutional funders, don't get tired giving. Giving is not like a spigot you can turn on or off. Corporations and the more politically correct term "partnership" aren't fatigued. If they should stop, it's for a variety of reasons.

Donors develop other interests. It may be reproductive rights today and gay rights tomorrow, depending on the evolution of interests. It may be about limiting funding because of the times.

And many more just don't understand what you are trying and, therefore, not persuaded to give donation.

Here are 10 short tips that are essential in writing a succinct, engaging and persuasive fundraising appeal.

1. Make sure you have an outline first. In this order:

What's the problem?
How will you solve it?
What makes you and your group capable?
How much will it cost?

2. Research. Research. Research. You can't appeal solely on heart-tugging phrases. (How many children exactly are going to be helped? What specific medicine is needed? Where is the problem centered? Donors want to know and want to know exactly how to help.

3. Highlight one person you will help. Reading about the plight of hundreds of thousands of flood victims make the donor's eyes glaze. But if you focus on just one person and ensure a story around it, you elicit a compassion.

NEW TO C1

Festival of Trees raises over ₱2M for typhoon victims, six schools

'You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give' —Manny Pangilinan

By Alice Y. Vergara

AFTER HELPING ONE GROUP OF disaster victims after another get back on their feet, Filipinos and their heritage friends have yet to succumb to donor fatigue. On the contrary, their generosity seems to grow in response to the magnitude of a disaster.

Last Wednesday's Festival of Trees at Manila Polo Club, an annual fundraiser of Makati Garden Club (MGC) and Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), raised P2.2 million in an auction.

Proceeds of the silent auction will benefit six rural elementary schools in Bataan and Magsaysay as part of the group's "Project Sanolan," while proceeds of the oral auction will go to re-

BUSINESS, C2

JULIE Tan sue and Mercy Tarnate of International Care Ministries (ICM)

BATCH Mitsubishi, incl. Michaela Garcia, George Arcadio, Lois Oppenheim, Bob Magdaleno and Quenzel Kalinga founder Tony Meloto

TEDDIE and Tony Mamaradlo, Tony Sagun and Tonet Jalosjos

More affluent personalities pool their resources for Dasma relief center

ELITE Pilot Lungaro, Michelle Bautista, Becky Macasaet, Scott and Debbie Lim

HAWAIIAN Duggin, Lorie Tayzon, Lolita Magsaysay, Dr. Greg Miller and Judy Mallenaug

PETER Caylaylo, Cristina and Michael Kuppler

DUKANE Sutherland and ICM chair David Sutherland

GUILLERMO Lee, Joel Schapero and Jon Zulueta

GOT TONS OF TEXTS ARE CALLS getting you frazzled on how the more affluent can economize and families were helping out in giving relief goods as well as pushing some of what the embarrassed Dasmarinas used as individual plastic bags.

Here is another list of volunteers of all ages who came to help in any way they can, say, palengpeng.

Commendable is the real, live energy of Emmet Simmons at Ecology Village, Immaculate Makati, whose relief goods, clothes, shoes, sandals/slides and sculptures of volunteer street people can donate are brought Luanne and Jane Avida de Guzman, also at Ecology Village, Dasmarinas, are also receiving donations from concerned citizens. Lanie also helped in packing at Filinvest Square everyday.

Gladiolus and Jamel Ghadafar were clothes and other goods on did duty and Nina Mercado flew to Cosmos Montessori in Ecology Village.

Canteen also grew as we sadly and hungrily ask every morning as children at the back gate of Ecology.

Others who gave help were Nena Wadwick and Cielo Sarmosa. The young managers who helped in one way they could as Hilton Tynan, Benny Tano Emmanuel, sorry then Mamerto and Manuel Sumaya Iddin. Another relief started in Bias Ecol in Alabang Hills in The Fun, Tagaig, is hopefully organized by managers Eugenia and Michelle Bandajao to tea, with the super help of Rep. Carmen Cholan Enriquez, Maricar Arnaiz, Angelo Pablador and Hannah Chavez who took relief goods to the Red Cross. Regular volunteers include Michelle Barrera, Angela Bernardo Salita, Rocio Moreno and Vivian Rodriguez.

Working together with Lily Lim are Siddhan Lobregat, Angelo Ubandina and Michaela Bautista and his friends who all pulled up and blinds who needed medical assistance. The Singh-Ariel Rodriguez Calderon and Antonio and Gerbo Cuisbian have a job done mobile kitchen that goes to different typhoon affected areas.

Jaguar's mom was Millie Song and his wife Shannon ran tons of relief goods and Mercedes Benz Lanie Tan ran truckloads of food and personal hygiene products to Cosmo relief centers.

Loads of my friends and other concerned individuals who donated and volunteered in ways are very quite dense is.

The bottom line is in times of tragedy, we Filipinos become one hearts, regardless of status and religion. The outpouring of love is something we should all be proud of, palengpeng.

Regine's tunes

Tons of Beach fabricators had a super fun Friday, palengpeng, at the SM Mall of Asia as they witnessed the launch of adorable couples of Regine by SHALOM's new event: Parquet and Songbird. Regine, as few, was the dazzling star of the night, along with the special men in SO Hit, singer sang her new Opie Alcantara and her darling father, Gerardo Velasquez. The prince of the road, world, Ben Chan, paparazzi, beamed with pride over the hit Lift Me Up.

Emcees while renowned charmers, Bb. Joyce Bernal, enlivened the happening with 80's video music exclusive black tuxes.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using FUJI PHOTO SOLUTIONS

International Care Ministries (ICM) from dancer chair David Sutherland hosted the delightful show which presented the progress for the shantytown, palengpeng.

For two years now, ICM has helped more than a hundred thousand people from the clinic in Smokey and Mountain. Each week, 3,140 families learned values and health care and received nutritional help. From five years until 2010, ICM's program will include the Leader Corps program.

The Transform program is setting up community change so these living in poverty by addressing their physical, spiritual and hygiene needs, palengpeng. Their three is the Jesus Seeker's program, which encourages kids to go to education. There are also the GESE and Mercy programs.

Philanthropists, dancer plus ICM executive director Julie Tantoco, Hong Kong based executive Jenny Tanson, health program evaluator Helen Farmer, volunteer Marietta

HOT R&B singer Jay-R

HANDSOME Gareth Taylor

PETAL gowns Ben Chan with Regine Velasquez-Alcasid, personality interviewer Boots Anson-Roa

ARCHITECT Miguel Puerto, talent manager Arnold Vegafria, Mons Romualdo Ramos and friend Lily-Ming's Lisa Ilarde

OUR Mozart, Regine Velasquez, Gerry Santos, Joyce Bernal, Dingdong Dantes and Gerardo Velasquez

JUDE Eng and Mark Kua, GH Mall of Asia's assistant mall manager

Festival of Trees raises over ₱2M ...

From page C1

sion of "Tropical Trees in Timbuy".

As in years past, 1958 through its extensive renovation, will showcase the master to make sure the funds reach their beneficiaries.

The festival's projects include intensive learning and rehabilitation of upland communities in barangay and municipalities of overlooked Magarao Bay in Samar.

And by Mindy Perez-Hidlo, this year's festival chair, and chief "volcano" Josephine del Gallego, the group rolls out its goodies. Fashion accessories, gift certificates and home extra boards by likes of Isabel Dait, Bejo Laurel, Francis Flores, Amanda Jalosjos, Rosemyr Flores, Sirata, Tin Ping and Mango's La Bonne.

These items were grouped under chrysler auctions like the top three prizes, which received a one-week stay in Ta Ring's Bali luxury cottages of ₱25,000, and plane tags by Cebu Pacific and Edgar Duran, were reserved for the open bidding.

CANDY Fajardo and Gary Gaviola

JOSEPHINE del Gallego and Frank Medrano

Winners

Before the night ends very candy Fajardo went home with Rachel's "Christmas" which fetch Lotte Bora-Bolivia, the most festival chair and one of ABC's founding members, became the grand winner of Journal's "Bono."

Bono Bolivia clothes on 850,000 for a painting valued at ₱1,000. A home festival chair herself, del Gallego came on board has then a fourth before the venue to help solicit donations.

The group also generated a fair amount of money from 32 donated "mystery" boxes worth ₱5,000 each. Guests didn't have to bid, as they would buy a box with a surprise prize inside—from cell phones to elegant jewelry, coffee table books to overnight hotel stays.

"The fun part is you don't know what you're going to get," del Gallego said.

Auctioneer Manny Pangilinan, chair of PHILPA board of trustees and the evening's luminous speaker, then summed up the reason behind Filipinos' unflagging desire to help others.

"Our act of giving, something good has emerged in among Filipinos... volunteerism and a desire to reach out and help other people," said the Philippine Long Distance and Telephone company chair. "After all, you make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give."

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How to write an effective fundraising appeal...

From page C1

4. Donors are fiscal with current organizations during a bad week. You need to show them how something unique.

Is there a needy person you solicited to your relief efforts?

Are you the only ones in this part of the region doing work?

Your uniqueness is not reason to "beat. Donors though like to give to work that makes a difference.

5. "What's in it for the donor? Donors for the most part don't expect anything. But you must make a donation feel his/her donation did good. A simple heartfelt "Thank you" is a start. Or an explanation of what the donation did to alleviate the situation.

Acknowledging where the donation comes from is very important.

6. There must be an inspiration, someone or group/people who is a poignant photo. Describe the face of a child receiving food. There must be a heart-warming story and picture in the appeal.

7. Make only a sense of urgency is underlined appeal more important. Or else write: an appeal that underlines why they must receive the donation now, not second. Don't sound like you are writing from your desk, second, sound like you are with, or near that person.

8. For a solution? Donors often stop giving, thinking their support goes into one bottomless black hole. A moving program will make a lasting impression if responsible gadget winning is included. Make a classic bed just of a solution, not an open check book.

9. Which brings us to the last and most important element in your appeal. Give the donor hope. That's a hard thing to do in a world overwhelmed by suffering and tearing down. You, like your appeal, must be co

HARVIC Garcia-Quingoza

JINTERO Sison, Manuel Tanjangco and Alex Lopez

ARMAND Kho, Vic Sison, Linda Agas and Tina Sison

MILDRED Duero-Romero and Ruben Sison

FORMER vice president Tito Quingoza and Cecilia Quingoy

JOEY Benedicto, Gecie Fong, Regis Puno, Joseph Tan, Vicky Nano, Queeny Mendiola and Tina Sison

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Santos and Daphne Kock were among those who were touched by this awesome special event.

From that super happening, ICM received an overwhelming P2 million. Check out www.caremin.com and get involved by texting Pablo Sioson, CEO of ICM, at 0919-9022592.

Ateneo alumni homecoming

Ateneo's Law School Grand Alumni Homecoming, held at the world-class Shell Theri Hotel, was hosted by Class 1985. This year's successful fundraisingbabble were the graduates of Classes 1958, 1969 and 1984, pulong-pulong.

This unforgettable homecoming between more significant as Ateneo also celebrated its sesquicentennial anniversary this year.

Ateneo legal luminaries graced the affair. Multitalented singer and entertainer, adorable Nanette Inventor, and that soulful bassist Ji Teah provided entertainment, which set the tuning at heart and young once rock and rolling on the dance floor, dahlings.

The highlight of the dinner was the grand raffle of one awesome Audi A4 from PUA Cars Inc., to list. Proceeds from the raffle will go to the Ateneo Law Class of 1985, financial and Legal Aid Fund for free legal aid to the indigents and deserving students of the ace Law School.

Clearly showing her happiness over this super electrifying happening was the chair of the 2009 Ateneo Law Alumni Homecoming Organizing Committee, lawyer Marilou Asuncion-Quingoza, pulongpo.

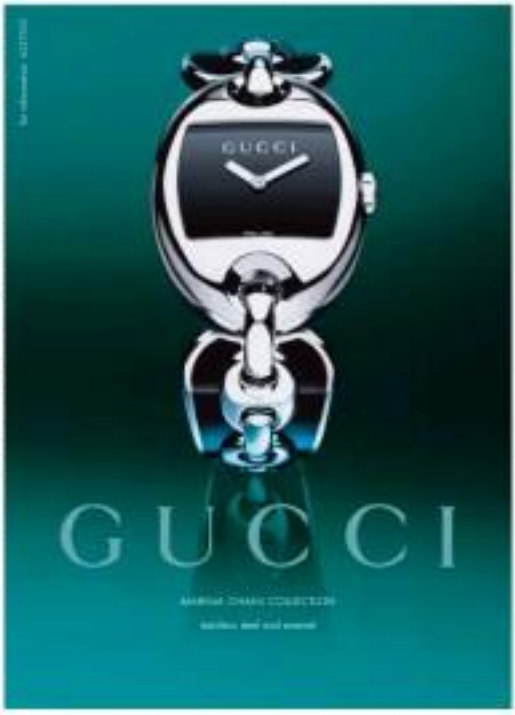
Casa y Jardin bazaar

Casa y Jardin will hold a bazaar Oct. 16, 9 a.m. 6 p.m., at the ballroom of InterContinental Hotel. The limited edition "Mother & Child" jewelries there will be on sale. It's now on its 14th series by popular artist Joel Mancao, no less.

"This year's theme for CJIC, in partnership with Coward Kalinga, is to build at least 30 homes in Tagaig with the assistance of Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga. Construction will home marginalized families, plus more than 60 other charities," said charity-oriented Nene Lerenar, committee member.

Check it out. Buy and have a good time while helping our less fortunate brethren and sisters, pulongpo.

CATHOLIC Women's Club's Mimi Valerio, Nikki Valerio, Mimi Bacilio, Ana Prejoler and Nena Lerenar



Posh amenities abound at Manhattan Heights

Manhattan Garden City is the first and only condominium development that is connected to the LRT2 and MRT3 lines. The whole metro can get closer.

More than 20 social amenities, including swings and smaller vibrant tropical landscaping, are planned for Manhattan Heights.

Manhattan Heights is the new urban development of Manhattan Garden City, the world-class master-planned community of Megaworld Corporation.

Relaxing at home is great, and what if you could do lazy-week grocery items you forgot, or watching for overlooking pain on a Saturday afternoon? Just thinking about getting into your car again or having to commute is already tiring. Wouldn't it be great if you could live in a place where everything you need is only a few steps away? If you can, even, to yes, then Manhattan Heights is the well-located sanctuary that you are looking for.

"We are very excited about Manhattan Heights, the third phase of Manhattan Garden City. With the number and diversity of amenities on hand, residents don't have have to leave the premises to enjoy the weekend. They can find everything here, from free shuttle services to offices," noted Megaworld Central Properties Inc. President Anthony Charlemagne Yu.

The residents will enjoy hours of relaxation and recreation at the fourth level podium deck, where most of the amenities are located. This area also connects all the towers in Manhattan Heights, and leads to the amazing decks of each residential phase," he shared.

Outdoor amenities include tree-lined jogging paths, a swimming pool, and an outdoor spa. A contemplative area and meditation area are for those who want to exercise yoga. As weeks go on, among the amenities that will be ready for residents' use are a kids' play area, a gymnasium, dining areas and pre-function areas.

A play zone for children, a reflexology path and landscaped gardens are planned. The indoor amenities can be found in Towers B and D. These include a gym for those who wish to do some resistance training and aerobics, as well as a spa and sauna. Residents need to watch up with some work, meeting rooms and function rooms provide that. Residents can also relax in the lounge, or they can entertain guests in the billiard area and function area. Upscale restaurants and cafes are also planned for the podium deck.

The four common levels of each tower are known as the Sky Garden Floors, and they have direct access to "sky gardens" – lush, tree-shaped settings with benches, palm trees, and colorful flowers. Residents can enjoy fresh air and evening while reading a book, or simply admiring the lovely view that the sky gardens provide. At the ground level, the podium deck also has retail outlets, making shopping a fun and efficient experience.

Since Manhattan Garden City is a world-oriented development, Manhattan Heights residents have direct access to the MRT-3 and LRT-2 lines via elevated garden walkways. The exclusive network of walkways also leads to the Gateway Mall and Araneta Coliseum. The development is less than 20 minutes away from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, and is also within 15 minutes away from the Makati CBD. Its proximity to these destinations, plus the 18 minutes away from the Ayala corridor from there.

For more information on Manhattan Heights, please call 910-3333 or visit the Manhattan Garden City showroom at the 3rd level of Gateway Mall.

Tips on writing a persuasive fundraising appeal in these flooded times

A-range C1

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Forum on good hygiene, personality development for 'yaya'

HOW CAN I TEACH MY child's 'yaya' proper hygiene? Is there a personality development course for those caregivers whom children tend to emulate?"

These are but some of the concerns of parents/lawyers of the close relationship that develops between a nanny and her ward.

For this reason, UK-based international preschool Tumble Tots has included a forum for child caregivers in its educational and advocacy program.

The Caregiver Forum is on Oct. 16, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Dubbed "Yaya: Kalidad Mo, Kalaruan Ito," the forum will focus on good hygiene, parenting and personality development.

Guest speakers are Dr. Bindu N. Tayson, head of The Medical City Moderate Flu Task Force Committee and a fellow of the Philippine Society of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases; actress and TV host Gladys Reyes-Santamaria; and Rica Aguilar of Johnson & Johnson's Baby.

Located at E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City, Tumble Tots offers a caregiver-educational system that caters to a child's overall development.

Tumble Tots is Britain's leading preschool for children over months to six years old. Log on to www.tumbletots.com.ph.

Seminar fee is P750 for snacks, materials and certificate. Tel. nos. 6876783, 6876315 and 0917.5146067.

AN EDIBLE pumpkin costume

How to ghoul up your kid for Halloween

TOY KINGDOM NOW HAS COLOR-ful Halloween costumes to transform kids into their favorite superhero, princess, witch, wizard, monster or ghost. They can also do trick or treat with pumpkin pails and loot bags.

There's also spooky stuff for the home, from pumpkin lanterns to mummy omelettes.

Toy Kingdom will also host Halloween parties on Oct. 25, such as the Pen-tastic Halloween Party at the Concourse of SM Makati and the Meet and Greet event with Batman, Red Ranger, Blue Beetle and Superman at the SM Megamall A Event Center at 3:30 p.m., 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Toy Kingdom will also team up with

HOW TO D1

How else does Anton share his awesome discoveries? His answer: "I Ovi."

At first glance, Anton Diaz seems like a quiet man, almost shy. But when the conversation moves to the subject of food, he becomes animated, eager to share.

"There's this restaurant called Ku Louie you have to try," he says, describing his family's recent trip to Puerto Princesa, Palawan's tourist destination. Leaving (shining)

The author of the popular blog Our Awesome Planet will try anything once and Laarni's family equally game. Anton started the blog in 2005, when his first son was born. Originally intended as an online journal chronicling the early years of his son's lives, Anton expanded it to include his growing family's adventures, usually involving around their two favorite activities—eating and traveling.

"I don't cook," he reveals. "That's why most of the time, we end up eating out." Discovering new restaurants has become sort of like a treasure hunt for his family. Anton takes them along as he tours the country's provinces for hidden food finds.

BLOGGING AS A CAREER

In 2006, Anton bravely left his day job to become a full-time blogger. "I was inspired by the help 'Ipot' when I attended the first Bangsamoro Food Fest November 2007 and it gave me the courage to pursue my calling," he shares of his blog.

A year later, it appears that his gamble has paid off. He's able to spend more time with his family doing what he loves most. Anton plans to keep blogging until the twins are old enough to take over. With his wife and eldest son starting their own blogs, a dynasty of Bloggers is in the works.

In between food trips, Anton also teaches professional blogging and internet marketing at the Asian Institute of Management, passing on his expertise on the emerging field. With his site averaging 12,000 hits per day and an Our Awesome Planet book in the pipeline, his blog is one of the most successful in the Philippines.

"I still like writing long posts on my computer," Anton reveals. "But I Ovi because it offers me a fast, convenient way to share pictures and videos."

OVI ADVENTURES

"I like Nokia because it's user-friendly," Anton says. "When we're out on the road, I use my Nokia N95 8GB to update my social media sites." He's also a recent convert of Ovi by Nokia, a service that allows subscribers to send and receive email, share photos, store and share files online, back up phone contacts, download ringtones, videos and games.

Because they're always searching for new places and experiences, Anton and his family sometimes find themselves in far-flung locales, where internet cafes are a long and bumpy drive away. "I still like writing long posts on my computer," Anton reveals. "But I Ovi because it offers me a fast, convenient way to share pictures and videos."

"I meet alot of people along the way," Anton adds. "With all the foodie friends and restaurant numbers stored on my Nokia, I make sure to back up my contacts on Ovi."

What's next for Anton and his family? "We're planning a trip to Davao (adventure) Park in Samal," he shares excitedly. "My kids are at an age where they like exploring new things." Evidence that no matter how big his blog gets, Anton will stay true to what got him blogging in the first place.

Now that he's discovered the many conveniences of Ovi, Anton likes we'll be reading more about his trips around the awesome planet.

Like Anton, you can even extend your life multitime. Visit www.ovi.com to learn how.

GARFIELD

A LIFAH

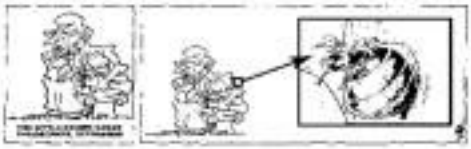
PUGAD BABOY

DICK TRACY

LOVE KNOTS

JAMES BOND

ERMAK COMEDY



BABY BLUES

TULDOK

BEH

ATOMO AND WEEDY

KIKO MACHINE

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 20). During the next few weeks, all your relationships will improve! You'll find it easy to express your affection to others and receive affection in return.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20). You might get a raise or some praise from your boss or an assignment to the next level. Many of you also will enjoy your six more than usual.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20). Romance, love of pets, excitement, politics, sports, the arts and plans for activities with children—all this fun will spark a more social during the next several weeks. Enjoy your good fortune.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22). Relations with friends, coworkers, especially supervisors, are important to you during the next month. This is also a good time to rationalize. Intention at home!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22). In the next month, you'll attract a lot of attention. Your wonderful personality might make those around you feel welcome with challenges and solutions and solutions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22). Your faith now is growing, and others you're meeting share concerns, or sometimes money is coming your way. Of course, this could mean you're buying beautiful things for yourself and others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22). The next few weeks are a good time to shop for clothes, accessories, home furnishings, you like yourself more because you feel better about the things you own.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21). Take an attitude to beautiful surroundings. Whether you're planning a trip or take time during the next few weeks. You need to do some good decorative thinking.

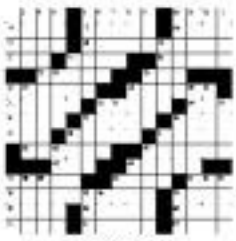
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21). All areas activities and meetings will go extremely well in the next few weeks. You feel confident and secure in your way of dealing with others. You want a serious romance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19). Romance with the boss is possible in the month ahead. You're also a time when you might get your creative juices flowing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18). You have the power, definitely capable of getting what you want, and results. You also want to learn more so go back to school if you can. You could earn more that way.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20). You can accomplish quite a lot through others, especially in business. Remember, love is the ultimate. Intimate relationships are healthy, up to a record and lovely way.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

3	9	8	5		4	1	7	6
5				9				
2				3				
6	2	1			5	8	4	
			3					2
			2					5
				6				7
				4				1
8	5	7			1	6	2	

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

7	3	1	8	9	4	5	6	2
4	2	5	7	1	6	8	3	9
6	8	9	2	3	5	1	7	4
9	5	6	3	7	2	4	1	8
1	4	2	6	5	9	3	8	7
8	7	3	1	4	8	2	9	6
3	6	4	9	8	1	7	2	5
5	9	7	4	2	3	6	5	1
2	1	8	5	6	7	9	4	3

How to ghoul up your kid for Halloween

CAST a spell in this cute witch costume.

BRIM stitched with this witch hat.

GOLDEN carnival mask

GO FOR a safer look with this animal print costume.

GRAB up for the wild in this pink animal-print costume.

GOOFY hat

THIS mask also makes for great table centerpiece decoration.

PUMPKIN pails for trick-or-treating

SPOOKY monster loot bag with drawstring

FILL these plush loot bags with lots of Halloween treats.

TOTE these fun, bright-colored bags while trick or treating

Cartoon Network's Toy Box Street Attendant Pumpkin Party at The Block at SM City North Edsa at 10 a.m.; with the Dumbledore and Company Infant Party at The Podium Atrium at 10 a.m.; and with Nickelodeon for the Slimelodeon Party at the SM Mall of Asia Music Hall, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Toy Kingdom Express is in all SM Department Stores. Toy Kingdom outlets are at SM Makati, The Podium, 3 Mall, SM Megamall, SM Southmall, SM City Sucat, The Block at SM City North Edsa and the SM Mall of Asia.

Toy Kingdom is also at SM Supermalls in Pampanga, Lucena, Manila, Baguio, Bacoor and Batangas in Lucena and Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro and Davao in Visayas and Mindanao.

Sam Bradley's mall tour

SAM Bradley

WHEN'S SAM BRADley tour is the 'SMStarspersonality thing' mean. Project Sam, his mall tour, will be held at SM City Clark today, SM Southmall, Oct. 10, SM City Cebu, Oct. 17, and SM City Sta. Rosa, Oct. 18. This will be his first performance in the Philippines.

Sam Bradley's acrylic cocktail is a clever and clean combination of soul, folk and rock music. His song, "Too Far Gone," which he co-wrote with "Twilight" lead Robert Pattinson, made its way into the soundtrack of Pattinson's version "Water Birds."

PDI editor delivers Ateneo lecture on Nick Joaquin

Newsstands set and books subscription editor Lilia B. Zulueta, who holds the year-term Imelda Dizon de Zenaida Ilehberg of the Ateneo de Manila University, will deliver his lecture today (Oct. 14) at 4:30 p.m. in Ateneo's Social Sciences Conference Room.

The professor's alcohol is administered by Ateneo's Department of English and is endorsed by Alfredo Dizon '04.

The lecture, "Nick Joaquin as a Literary Journalist," focuses on the late National Artist's journalism, reportage and general nonfiction that have the bulk of his prodigious output but which have been neglected much by literary studies. The lecture situates this singular on academic scholarship that mainly on "The study of literature as literature. The latter literary studies to stress investigations when pitted against the cultural and the social sciences."

Zulueta, who's a faculty member of the Philippine University of Santo Tomas, advises aspiring journalists and writers to "Read as many books of the chance of understanding more fully Joaquin's fiction, poetry and drama by neglecting the journalism and the non-fiction because they contain "so many beneficial hallmarks the truth and method of Nick Joaquin, the writer and the man."

Halloween in Bora

Discovery Shores Boracay (tel. 63 36 288-8800 or 63 2 729-8888; www.discoveryshoresboracay.com) will host fun entertainment, kids' activities, magic shows and the Cat House on Oct. 31. The Cat House will transport you to four whimsical chambers and "eat out of the bag" entire at every corner.

At Sands Restaurant, treats continue with their decidedly delicious dinner "Boo-fete" available from Oct. 29 to Nov. 1. Enjoy Wine Lines, the featured specialty drink this October, and Kitties, a version for the youngsters with a special Halloween top.

OFFICERS and members of the Spouses of the Heads of Missions with International Bazaar Foundation Inc., chair, Rosa Lovely Ramos (6th from left)

Foundation holds its 43rd international bazaar on Nov. 15

THE INTERNATIONAL BAZAAR Foundation Inc., headed by its chairperson Rosa Lovely Ramos, in cooperation with the Spouses of the Heads of Missions (SHOM) and members of the consular corps in the Philippines, will hold the 43rd International Bazaar on Nov. 15, Sunday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., at the PICC Forum, CCP Complex in Pasay City.

The bazaar is an annual fund-raising event participated in by diplomatic and consular missions in Manila, government agencies and local entrepreneurs selling choice merchandise at reasonable prices. The proceeds are used to finance the projects that are aimed to help the underprivileged and less fortunate. Contributions are also earmarked to acquire new and better equipment for hospitals, training schools and libraries.

This year's bazaar, with the theme "Shop and Reach Out," will again serve charitable institutions as beneficiaries. Last year's recipients included the Philippine Christian Foundations, Philippine Orthopedic Hospital, Edith Saggy Pathay, Qi Inc., Wilson Parental Link, Catarman Public Health Center (Dental Clinic), Pasay Step Ship at Pagasa, Linya Moyna Foundation Inc., Pinabacdao Island Community and Family Services International, Gift of Sunshine and Our Lady of Grace Women Forty members of the diplomatic corps, 30 members of the consular corps and 112 local participants will take part in this year's bazaar.

The BIF also announced that this year's raffle will offer prizes such as airline tickets, hotel accommodations, gift certificates from restaurants and department stores, appliances, jewelry, cell phones, paintings and other interesting gifts.

Entrance tickets at P150 each will be sold at P100 are available from the BIF bazaar participants, selected outlets and at the PICC Bonifacio bazaar day.

For details and further inquiries, contact the BIF Secretariat, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), DFA Building, 2330 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City or e-mail bif.dfa@gmail.com.

Are You a Smart Saver or Big Spender?

Does a big chunk of your hard-earned money usually end up in the cash registers of shops and not in your savings account?

Do you quickly go into the temptation of shopping?

Are you having a hard time striking a balance between saving and spending?

Here's a quick and simple test to help you determine whether you are more of a Smart Saver or a Big Spender.

Tell us how much do you agree the following statements using a scale of 1 to 5. "1" being least and "5" being most.

1. I can't walk into a store, look around and not buy anything.
2. I have a budget but I refuse to stick to it faithfully.
3. I stick to my budget this month.
4. I pay my bills in full and on time.
5. When I go to the grocery, I bring a list.
6. I feel guilty when I make impulsive purchases.

If your score is below 15 points, you are on the right track, smart cat!

Don't fret if you scored more than 15 points. Here are some tips to help you manage your money:

Saving is tough, especially when the urge to splurge becomes overwhelming.

There are a few tips to help you keep that spending weakness in check:

- Give yourself a shopping budget every month and stick to it.
- Credit saving doesn't work just like cash. It only makes it worse.
- Get a savings account that automatically saves money for you.

Open a Save-Up account at any BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank branch nationwide.

BPI Save-Up is an interest-earning peso savings account that conveniently comes with you at your ATM-based savings account with BPI. What makes BPI Save-Up unique is that it helps you fight the temptation of shopping and impulse buying, you decide how much you want to save every payday or every month and it will automatically be transferred from your BPI Account savings to your Save-Up account.

Plus, it comes with FREE Life Insurance Coverage from Sun Life Grepa Financial, Inc. equivalent to six times the amount of your monthly savings. Pay it easy.

- No minimum balance requirement
- No maintenance fee
- Free Life Insurance coverage

Hold yourself back from overspending with the help of BPI Save-Up!

Start the habit of saving now and build a worry-free future.

BPI Save-Up

Hairloss is wrecking her life and she doesn't know why.

Thinning hair makes a woman look older. When your hair's health, shine and bounce weaken, it seems your personality is likewise affected. Self-consciousness, diminished self-esteem, even bouts of depression may occur.

Most women who have gone through this harrowing experience say they tried everything to stop hairloss, from special treatments at the salon, to a whole range of over-the-counter products. But nothing worked. Sadly, many "remedies" may have actually made the condition worse. Until they found out the reason why they were losing hair, little could be done to end the problem.

Possible reasons for hairloss.

Women's hairloss can be caused by hormonal changes. Female Pattern Baldness (or Androgenetic Alopecia) is a reaction to male hormones in the body (androgens) which can weaken a woman's hair. Other factors can be stress, poor nutrition, illnesses and reaction to certain medications, childbirth and menopause. Frequent coloring, curling, straightening, and many more. Most causes of hairloss, when they are correctly identified, can be treated with good results.

Getting the facts on why you are losing hair.

Trichology is the study of the functions and problems of hair. A trichologist is someone who has been educated in the subject and is qualified to determine the reasons why your hair is not in good health.

Where do you find a trichologist? One name that has been synonymous with Professional Trichology in the Philippines for more than 15 years: Svenson. Svenson trichologists will examine your hair and scalp and give you advice on what to do.

A trichologist – what does it cost?

Nothing. Svenson trichologists offer an in-depth Hair & Scalp analysis totally free of charge.

Pre-hairloss symptoms.

Before your hair starts falling out, be aware of early warning signs such as persistent dandruff, flaking, and scalp irritations. Bad hairloss – see a trichologist when you see these signs!

Those visible indications incorrubs-causing, and when combined with dirt in the atmosphere, shampoo chemicals or excess oiliness, they can block follicles, badly affecting hair growth.

Treatments to help your hair.

Depending on the findings of your Hair & Scalp analysis, you can choose on treatment programs including:

ULTRA HAIR REINFORCER – deep-cleans scalp, creates healthier environment for growth. Hair becomes thicker, denser, more lush.

ULTRA-LOSS FOCUSIZER – quickly controls and stops hair fall, helps restore original hardness, volume and resilience.

SCALP CORRECTIVE- eliminates dandruff, flaking and other irritations, returns scalp to normal state, prevents recurrent hairloss.

Make an appointment today to see a trichologist free of charge. Call Svenson at 892-4263/ 224-0851(Cubao).

CORELLE'S European Herbs Deluxe Series

Nature-inspired dinnerware

POPULAR AMERICAN DINnerware Corelle presents its European Herbs Deluxe Series—given lovely and delicate florals with yellow and purple flowerets on smooth pristine white ware.

The European herbs Coleus canina basil and baby herbs woven into a masterfully classy design.

Manufactured by World Kitchen Unit and exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Wilcon Depot, Inc., Corelle combines daring style with durability and durability.

Corelle dinnerware pieces are lightweight but tough, their strength anchored in a unique sandwich construction that bonds together layers of tempered glass materials making them resistant to breakage, cracks, chips and permanent stains. They are made of non-porous and non-toxic glass materials, hence they do not retain odors and are safe to clean and easy to store.

They are perfect for kitchens with space limitations because the pieces are slim, compact and stackable, as well as versatile since they are microwaveable and dishwasher-safe. The attractive shapes and designs are long-lasting and non-fading, and they come with a one-year warranty from thermal breakage.

With top-of-the-line global brands in its catalogue such as Pyrex, Corelle, Corningware and Visions, the company launched eight new stores within Luzon and dealership operations, focusing on key urban areas such as Metro Luzon, Cebu, Davao and Cagayan de Oro. Distribution satellites, depots and service centers are also located together with the company.

For inquiries, contact Raffles Street Sales in Cyber One Plaza, Eastwood City, tel. 687-4715 to 16. In Metro Luzon, (02) 584-3391; Cebu (032) 253-0986; Cagayan de Oro (08822) 722-388 or (088) 856-4736; and Davao (082) 221-9717 or 227-4946.

Read the fine print

THE CONSUMER
Linda B. Bolido

AFTER THE FLOODS, IT IS now just dawning people how to worry about. I am sure an even greater concern is the cost of having those damaged vehicles and appliances repaired, if they are still salvageable. Some, of course, may have to be replaced altogether.

People with car and/or home insurance may tend to read the fine print of those documents. From a friend's experience, many insurance policies may hold pleasant surprises. My friend said she despaired over the damage to her car caused by floodwaters and worried about the cost of having the vehicle repaired. She reviewed her car insurance, although not expecting it to be of much help, but much to her delight, she found out she had actually been paying additional premium for the kind of contingency that "Ondoy" entered. She had actually forgotten the reason *why* her premium was high. Now she remembered.

When she got her car insurance, my friend wondered if she was right to agree to pay a higher premium to get additional coverage for something that did not seem likely to of ever hit Metro Manila. Is almost disappeared from the map because of the rains Ondoy dumped on us, she is now grateful she paid the extra amount despite her misgivings. It seems that her insurance covered almost the entire cost of her car's repair, leaving her with only a very small additional charge to pay.

As for appliances, it seems that some people have forgotten that warranty cards come with those gadgets, which they are supposed to send back to the manufacturers. In fact, some appliance stores even offer extended warranty for a little additional cost. People should check the papers that come with their appliances and return their warranties. If they never took the card, as they were supposed to, the manufacturers would have their records of your home on file, even if they could not find their own copies of the warranties.

Even if the warranty has lapsed or even if it does not cover damage caused by the recent floods, I would still suggest that you have an authorized technician of the manufacturers check your appliances. Since they know the cost and the model just fixed, they can come prepared with the suitable spare parts should anything need to be replaced. That should cut the process of getting your appliance working again. And, of course, you are guaranteed that only genuine spare parts will be used.

My neighbor, for instance, assisted her LG refrigerator checked when it stopped running after she have high flood in her area. But the bad feet her copy of the warranty card as was reluctant to call up the manufacturers.

On my advice, after she assured me they sent back the warranty card, she called up LG and they promptly sent a technician.

My electrician set stopped making ice even though I did not see it for almost 48 hours to allow it to dry. The technician who serviced it came prepared with the right parts because he knew exactly the kind of model I had.

Incidentally, the Electrolux technician, Gerry Dumdo, who serviced my refrigerator, suggests that appliances that were submerged in water should be looked at by experts even if they seem to be working fine. He said water might still be trapped in nooks and crannies of an appliance even if you allowed it to dry for a day or two, which is exactly what happened to my set.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1998 Chino Roces Ave. cor. Makati and Yuchengco Sts., 1200 Makati City; fax 897-4793/94; or e-mail bolido@inquirer.com.ph.

FILIPINO independent filmmaker Raymond Red (left) talks to star "Next Good" conferences as fellow Filipino director Nick Deocampo looks on during the Busan International Film Festival in Busan, South Korea, on Monday.

RP 'hotbed of talents'

By Marinel R. Cruz

BUSAN, SOUTH KOREA—"THE PHILIPpines is currently a hotbed of talents," according to a news article on The Hollywood Reporter published on Oct. 12, which coincided with the opening of this year's Busan International Film Commission (BIFCOM) and Industry Showcase being held at the Dreadtop Hotel here.

Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) chairperson Rolando "Rolly" Antonio couldn't agree more. "It is clear that the country is the fastest-growing area in filmmaking. More and more, the world is realizing that a lot of awards in international film festivals are being garn-

Healthy and Radiant Skin by
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Normal to Combination

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CARMEN SOO!
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3:00 pm at Watsons
G/F, SM Mall of Asia

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1-800-1888-SMAC (for areas outside Metro Manila) or visit our website at www.smadvantage.com.ph

visit: www.smcinema.com

SM CINEMA

UP FOR GRABS!

Buy 2 (two) MICHAEL JACKSON'S THIS IS IT MOVIE TICKETS in advance from October 16 to 27, 2009 at any SM Cinema branch nationwide and get a Michael Jackson's THIS IS IT Max Poster for FREE!

IN SM CINEMAS & IMAX THEATER NORTH EDSA OCTOBER 28

metro manila

IMAX

NORTH EDSA	MALL OF ASIA	MEGAMALL
1 G-FORCE (3D)	1 JULIE and JULIA	1 G-FORCE (3D)
2 G-FORCE	2 THE UGLY TRUTH	2 G-FORCE
3 JULIE and JULIA	3 G-FORCE (3D)	3 SURROGATES
4 SURROGATES	4 SURROGATES	4 IN MY LIFE
5 IN MY LIFE	5 IN MY LIFE	5 THE FINAL DESTINATION
6 RED CLIFF	6 RED CLIFF	6 RED CLIFF
7 THE FINAL DESTINATION	7 NOT FORGOTTEN	7 NOT FORGOTTEN
8 NOT FORGOTTEN	8 YIYA & ANGELINA: THE SPOILED BRAT MOVIE	8 YIYA & ANGELINA: THE SPOILED BRAT MOVIE
9 YIYA & ANGELINA: THE SPOILED BRAT MOVIE	9 THE FINAL DESTINATION	9 THE FINAL DESTINATION
10 THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD	10 THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD	10 THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD
CITY MALL	CENTURY	CITY SAN LAZARO
1 SURROGATES	1 THE UGLY TRUTH	1 G-FORCE
2 THE UGLY TRUTH	2 G-FORCE	2 THE UGLY TRUTH
3 IN MY LIFE	3 SURROGATES	3 SURROGATES
4 YIYA & ANGELINA: THE SPOILED BRAT MOVIE	4 IN MY LIFE	4 IN MY LIFE
5 G-FORCE	5 YIYA & ANGELINA: THE SPOILED BRAT MOVIE	5 YIYA & ANGELINA: THE SPOILED BRAT MOVIE
6 NOT FORGOTTEN	6 NOT FORGOTTEN	6 NOT FORGOTTEN
7 THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD	7 THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD	7 THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD
CITY STA. MESA	SOUTHMALL	MARIKINA
1 G-FORCE	1 G-FORCE (3D)	1 G-FORCE
2 NOT FORGOTTEN	2 RED CLIFF	2 RED CLIFF
3 RED CLIFF	3 RED CLIFF	3 SURROGATES
4 IN MY LIFE	4 SURROGATES	4 IN MY LIFE
5 SURROGATES	5 IN MY LIFE	5 NOT FORGOTTEN
6 JULIE & JULIA	6 NOT FORGOTTEN	6 THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD
7 THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD	7 THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD	7 YIYA & ANGELINA: THE SPOILED BRAT MOVIE
ALABANG	CITY BICUTAN	
1 G-FORCE	1 G-FORCE	
2 SURROGATES	2 SURROGATES	
3 IN MY LIFE	3 IN MY LIFE	
4 THE FINAL DESTINATION	4 THE FINAL DESTINATION	
5 RED CLIFF	5 RED CLIFF	
6 NOT FORGOTTEN	6 NOT FORGOTTEN	
7 THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD	7 THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD	

luzon

CITY FAIRVIEW	CITY LIPA	CITY LUCENA
1 G-FORCE	1 THE FINAL DESTINATION	1 G-FORCE
2 THE FINAL DESTINATION	2 YIYA & ANGELINA: THE SPOILED BRAT MOVIE	2 IN MY LIFE
3 YIYA & ANGELINA: THE SPOILED BRAT MOVIE	3 G-FORCE	3 YIYA & ANGELINA: THE SPOILED BRAT MOVIE
4 IN MY LIFE	4 SURROGATES	4 SURROGATES
5 SURROGATES	5 IN MY LIFE	5 THE FINAL DESTINATION
6 RED CLIFF	6 RED CLIFF	6 RED CLIFF
7 NOT FORGOTTEN	7 NOT FORGOTTEN	7 NOT FORGOTTEN
CITY CLARK	CITY BATANGAS	CITY NAGA
1 G-FORCE	1 G-FORCE	1 G-FORCE
2 THE FINAL DESTINATION	2 THE FINAL DESTINATION	2 SURROGATES
3 YIYA & ANGELINA: THE SPOILED BRAT MOVIE	3 THE UGLY TRUTH	3 RED CLIFF
4 SURROGATES	4 SURROGATES	4 IN MY LIFE
5 IN MY LIFE	5 RED CLIFF	5 NOT FORGOTTEN
6 RED CLIFF	6 IN MY LIFE	6 THE FINAL DESTINATION
7 NOT FORGOTTEN	7 NOT FORGOTTEN	7 YIYA & ANGELINA: THE SPOILED BRAT MOVIE
CITY BACOLOD	CITY STA. ROSA	CITY MARILAO
1 G-FORCE	1 RED CLIFF	1 G-FORCE
2 THE FINAL DESTINATION	2 G-FORCE	2 I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER
3 YIYA & ANGELINA: THE SPOILED BRAT MOVIE	3 THE FINAL DESTINATION	3 THE FINAL DESTINATION
4 SURROGATES	4 SURROGATES	4 IN MY LIFE
5 IN MY LIFE	5 IN MY LIFE	5 RED CLIFF
6 RED CLIFF	6 NOT FORGOTTEN	6 NOT FORGOTTEN
7 NOT FORGOTTEN	7 THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD	7 THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD
CITY SANMARIANO	CITY SAN JOSE	CITY BALIWAG
1 G-FORCE	1 G-FORCE	1 G-FORCE
2 THE FINAL DESTINATION	2 THE FINAL DESTINATION	2 I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER
3 RED CLIFF	3 RED CLIFF	3 THE FINAL DESTINATION
4 IN MY LIFE	4 IN MY LIFE	4 IN MY LIFE
5 SURROGATES	5 SURROGATES	5 RED CLIFF
6 NOT FORGOTTEN	6 NOT FORGOTTEN	6 NOT FORGOTTEN
7 THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD	7 THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD	7 THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD
NAGA	ROSALES	BALANGA
1 G-FORCE	1 G-FORCE	1 G-FORCE
2 THE FINAL DESTINATION	2 THE FINAL DESTINATION	2 THE FINAL DESTINATION
3 RED CLIFF	3 RED CLIFF	3 RED CLIFF
4 IN MY LIFE	4 IN MY LIFE	4 IN MY LIFE
5 SURROGATES	5 SURROGATES	5 SURROGATES
6 NOT FORGOTTEN	6 NOT FORGOTTEN	6 NOT FORGOTTEN
7 THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD	7 THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD	7 THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD

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CITY CEBU	CITY IGPIT	CITY ILOILO
1 G-FORCE	1 RED CLIFF	1 RED CLIFF
2 I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER	2 G-FORCE	2 G-FORCE
3 THE FINAL DESTINATION	3 THE FINAL DESTINATION	3 THE FINAL DESTINATION
4 IN MY LIFE	4 SURROGATES	4 SURROGATES
5 SURROGATES	5 IN MY LIFE	5 IN MY LIFE
6 RED CLIFF	6 NOT FORGOTTEN	6 NOT FORGOTTEN
CAGAYAN DE ORO	CITY BACOLOD	CITY GAISANO
1 G-FORCE	1 G-FORCE	1 G-FORCE
2 IN MY LIFE	2 THE FINAL DESTINATION	2 THE FINAL DESTINATION
3 THE FINAL DESTINATION	3 SURROGATES	3 SURROGATES
4 SURROGATES	4 IN MY LIFE	4 IN MY LIFE
5 RED CLIFF	5 RED CLIFF	5 RED CLIFF
6 NOT FORGOTTEN	6 NOT FORGOTTEN	6 NOT FORGOTTEN

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ERMITA	
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4 FAME	8 YIYA & ANGELINA: THE SPOILED BRAT MOVIE

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1 RED CLIFF	1 NOT FORGOTTEN
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2 SURROGATES	2 G-FORCE
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4 RED CLIFF	4 THE FINAL DESTINATION

DASMARINAS	IMUS
1 IN MY LIFE	1 G-FORCE
2 SURROGATES	2 RED CLIFF
3 RED CLIFF	3 IN MY LIFE
4 G-FORCE	4 YIYA & ANGELINA: THE SPOILED BRAT MOVIE

STARMILLS	
1 HORSEMEN	4 YIYA & ANGELINA: THE SPOILED BRAT MOVIE
2 G-FORCE	5 THE FINAL DESTINATION
3 IN MY LIFE	6 RED CLIFF

ANGELES	TACLOBAN
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2 THE GAMER	2 THE FINAL DESTINATION
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Opening This Week

Sanglaan

Directed by Mike Sigueroy; stars Nonie Tuason, Ike Felicio, Jenny Ramero, Nell Ryan-Arce, Jess Evardome, Flor Salvaga

As a pawnshop in Pritil, Tondo, teeters on the verge of bankruptcy, its owner (Tuason) and employees (Felicio, Evardome) must make important life choices. Recently in the town's Cinemalaya film fest, it won Best Actress for Tuason, Best Supporting Actress for Tuason, CineFilipino Shoppe.com says Sigueroy "has an observant eye ... [and] knows the dramas of ordinary Filipinos." Exclusively in Indefinite Robinsons/Galleria.

The Echo

Directed by Tom Lazusan; stars Jenny Bradford, Amelia Warner, Ira Calzada, Carlos Lewis, Jamie Bloch, Kevin Bayrand

An ex-convict (Bradford) is disturbed and haunted by the brutal gangrape in a neighbor's apartment. Todd Rooney of TheInkBlitz.net calls it a "mostly piece of work." Rehab McKinsley of Hangouts.com raves it's "a great example of just how much we can still Sorrow and elaborately learn from Asian horror."

Boylets

Directed by Celeste Pablo; stars Joel Prey Javier, Charles Delgado, Francis Simon, Rusty Adonis

Street hustlers make dough by seducing gays and stealing valids. The departure of a handsome hunk (Javier) is prevented by his closeted friend (Delgado) after problems love. Pittsfield actor Javier leaves he didn't feel ill at ease showing money love scenes. "I focused on what my character was doing," he explains. "Hindi Cris was close in giving instructions." Opens in Robinsons-Galleria, Ayenar Cubao, Ismael Quiapo and Cubao Cubao.

Julie & Julia

Directed by Nora Ephron; stars Meryl Streep, Amy Adams, Stanley Tucci, Chris Messina, Linda Edmond

The lives of two women, a chef (Streep) and a blogger (Adams), intertwine as the latter attempts to whip up the former's recipes. Mary Isengard of Florida Times Undercover pans it as "a soufflé: fluffy, delicious, and often this close to collapsing." Christopher Tookey of Daily Mail describes it as a "feel-good movie ... joyously obsessed with food."

My Life in Ruins

Directed by Donald Petrie; stars Nia Vardalos, Richard Dreyfuss, Maria Adanos, Sheila Kennedy

Hapless tour guide (Vardalos) shows travelers her country's treasures as she tries to sort out her life. Matthew Turner of New London accuses it's "watchable, but ... painfully unfunny, clichéd and lazy." Adam Shatter of Daily Express concurs: The "tattered romantic comedy has little to recommend beyond the picturesque locations," Anthony Quinn of Independent has dubbed it "My Big Fat Greek Package Holiday."

AMY ADAMS in "Julie and Julia"

Not Forgotten

Directed by Dee Scott; stars Hannes Bellot, Pat Wigle, Chloe Maurer, Cinder Barbour

Businessman (Bellot) turns to a bizarre ruse in his quest to find his kidnapped daughter (Maurer). Joe Leydon of Variety hails it as "a solidly crafted and permanently unsettling thriller." Geoff Berkshire of Slitmania New York differs: "Violent flashbacks, gratuitous nudity ... and vaguely supernatural lucid directions all factor in."

Red Cliff

Directed by John Woo; stars Tony Leung, Takeshi Kaneshiro, Chen Chang, Fengyi Zhang, Jun Hu, Wei Zhao

Against all odds, three rival kingdoms must unite to ward off a marvelous warlord. (Zhang). Nigel Andrews of Financial Times states: It "gets everything right, monumentally right, except this one vital piece of engagement." Peter Bradshaw of Guardian relates: "At 2 1/2 hours, it's a long haul. But there's many moments and he along the way."

'Sanglaan' goes to Lyon

ANOTHER CINEMALAYA ENTRY HAS been invited to an international film festival. Mike Sigueroy's "Sanglaan" is competing in the 35th Lyon Asian Film Festival set in France from 9 to 8. "Sanglaan," which tells the story of a pawnshop in Pritil, Tondo, that's on the verge of closing, is the debut film of Sigueroy and won two awards in Cinemalaya.

Rayanel San Diego Jr.

CHEER FACTOR

'Kinatay' wins in Spain

Brillante Mr. Mendoza's "Kinatay" brought home two awards in the 42nd Sitges International Fantastic Film Festival of Catalonia held in Spain this week. Mendoza won Best Director and Teresa Barrios won Best Original Soundtrack. Mendoza, who won Best Director in this year's Cannes, is currently in Paris for press interviews for "Kinatay" which will open in France next month.

Rayanel San Diego Jr.

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AYALA MALLS RECYCLABLES FAIR OCTOBER

RP 'hotbed of talents'

From page E1

scored by Filipino artists. The local film industry is looking good. Each year, a larger percentage of awards in festivals are being won by Filipino films."

The article, a two-page special report on Philippine cinema by writer Patrick Frater, also said a lot of Filipino film makers are "getting the kind of attention that is pulling the Philippines back on the international movie map... Indeed, Dennis has picked up apt moniker to turn the spotlight on Filipino cinema."

Country of honor

The Philippines is the "country of honor" in this year's Pusan International Film Festival. A total of 28 Filipino films will be showcased in the week-long event that began on Oct. 8. Among and the country's participation here "is really a testament to the excellence of Filipino films. It is another statement that the Filipino films are being recognized around the world."

The MPCOM opening ceremonies featured 24 industry leaders from around the world. Among them is the Philippine representatives. The other participants were Cho Hee-moon, Park Heung-soo, Bae Young-gil, Gyuhee Jaehoung, Lee Hong-kwon, Kim Tymawski, Xu Ding-xin, Wang Hsiao-ming, Kuniko Ono, Suh So-mun, Oh Jung-wan, Lee Seung-woo, Han Chiyun, Bill Underscore, Wanasiri Morakul, Rim Jung-hun, Kim Tae-suk, Kim Dong-wook and Lee Yong-gi.

Location site

The country's MPCOM booth, manned by Philippine Film Export Services Office executive director Digna Santiago, is currently open and today and will remain visitors until Oct. 16. It aims to promote the country as an alternative location site for foreign-produced TV and movie productions, said Santiago.

'Good sign'

"Already there are a number of filmmakers and film enthusiasts who showed interest," said Hiatus Lopez, of the post-production outfit Studiomate Net, work he. "This includes Gillian Jordan of the Tisch-ala School of Arts in Singapore. She said there are a lot of students interested in making their thesis films in the Philippines. This is a good sign."

Trade show

The MPCOM, a multi-market group handling anything from filmmaking to photographic equipment, from locations to banners to illustrations, is featuring 57 booths from 36 countries in this year's trade show, according to Her Sam-ok, Busan Metropolitan City mayor. This year's theme, said Her, is "Make your dreams and hopes for [the] film business come true to Busan."

At the PIFF Pavilion, Pinoy filmmakers Raymond Red and Mick Dacuycuy were speakers in a forum called "Talk to Talk," where they spoke about their about the history of Philippine cinema, censorship, independent filmmaking, as well as the country's "diverse and complicated" culture.

'Philippine Night'

"While a lot of Filipino filmmakers get awards in festivals around the world, what we ultimately want is for our films to be seen by Filipinos, whom we consider our most important audience," said Red.

Scheduled in the evening is Philippine Night, a gathering of Filipino and Korean industry leaders to mark the 60th anniversary of the Philippine-Korea diplomatic relations.

Email me at inquirer.com.ph

Hayden Kho . . .

Pumunta Sa

hers, Hayden, turned 1 year old last Oct. 3. The trio's couple hosted a one-day theme party for her.

Celebrity guests were Ara Mina, Jessi Hernandez, Geneva Cruz, KC Montero, Heaven Aeropuerto, JM Rodriguez and Will Devenegildo. Also present were Jacq Yu, Aubrey's best friend and partner in "Amazing Race Asia," and winners Tim Yap and Mico Halili.

Why the Wild West motif?

"I've always wanted to be a cowgirl," she said, laughing. "Since it got long after outings for us 'yung first birthday n'ya. Gusto ko cowboy theme and super gusto din si Cody (Troy's nickname) kasi his mom and dad are originally from Texas."

The birthday boy was wide awake during the entire bash, hogging all the kids. He eats by her the endings of a party animal like his mom and a heartthrob like his dad.

"What I love about him is that he likes crowded places or we never have a problem bringing him anywhere. I go, even to the gym."

Will the proud parents allow Hunter to join show biz someday? "I'm not sure about those life style sorts. Figure TV commercials."

Parenting has got hippie and smile with daddy Troy and mommy Aubrey. Just like the cowboy theme of Hunter's party, they know how to keep things fun not just as parents but also as a couple.

E-mail: entertainthehotmegirls@yahoo.com

Heartthrob cheating on actress GF

Pumunta Sa

kang gusto do-ot mga isang gusto kang makasama."

■ Ani Mina sa distributing relief goods at her home:

"Sabi ni parents ang obligasyon, ginagawa ito 'to before pa. Kasi ejemplar ngayon naghanam ilang na nag Diday ng lugar at dumating supa gusto ang makatao."

■ Charice Pempengco on extending salient:

"Ayoko naman na ako ang babaha sa kanya." (Bow.)

■ Mikaela Silliara's message to Gretchen Barretto, who accused her of sending threatening text messages:

"Mensyal ko nang sinasabi, lama (ngunan mo ang mga kilos mo). Bahu magtanim ang mahuna." (Bow ul.)

(Starmill, The Star, Showbiz Central)

Heartthrob cheating on actress GF

By the Entertainment staff

SPOTTED HUGGING ON THE WHITE sand beaches of Boracay: High-profile Heartthrob, who was accompanied not by Popular Actress (his rumored girlfriend), but by Homeless Starlet.

Today on GMA is cheating on PS with KS who's a regular on a noontime show.

IR, should've been forewarned. HI looked stressed with IS when he was/still involved with another girl.

A former Girlfriend alert: "HH chases because he's unhappy with his life."

Takes one to know one

Guru Shah knows how to get down a Fellow Host in a not so subtle way.

In an interview, DI let loose that FC was addicted to steroids—the secret of the latter's ripped bod.

Takes one to know one. DI also dabbled in "performance enhancing" substances, a source claims.

Pooping Tomasa

Closeted Gay has a rather sick hobby.

A source, CC apparently found a hole on the wall of a Make Comedian's dressing room.

Peter thought MC is no spring chicken. CC still feasts on the poor guy who's quite legendary for being physically "gifted."

Wrong trasher

An avid reader asked if a certain Show biz Hanger-on is the incorrigible gate crasher mentioned in a previous Rushes item.

Alas, it wasn't DI.

Turns out MG's modus operandi of inviting parties for free grub is hardly original.

Andong Agimat

There is talk that Engkong Ilustre has been tapped to portray Andong Agimat, the big hero of Arnold Arre's graphic novel.

The buzz is that United is adapting the proudly Pinoy graphic novel "Ang Alamat ni Andong Agimat" into a live action-animated franchise.

Kenji Williams tonight

This should be interesting. Ayala Malls has brought in Kenji Williams, a filmmaker, music producer and violinist who performs tonight with guest singer Nina at 6 p.m. Greenbelt 3 Park, Makati, and tomorrow, 7 p.m. at Trillium, Quezon City.

According to his website, Williams bridges the worlds of music, visual arts, science and philosophy. He has collaborated with international DJ John Digweed, evolutionary philosopher Alex Wilkins, world famous painter Alex Grey, the Gates Planetarium Dome Theater (Denver Museum of Nature and Science). His work has likewise been heard in cinematic festivals around the world, mainstream television, film soundtracks, and institutions such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

His performances are said to combine music and visual media to tell a story of planetary consciousness and spiritual evolution.

A star named Frencheska

Before emerging as winner in the female category of GMA TV "Are You the Next Big Star" singing contest, Frencheska Bes admits she didn't think she was going to be a star. Although she recalls having joined school shows in school at St. Paul's Pitahuaje, the songs she sang then were limited to ballads. She also didn't believe she could dance.

Competing with thousands of applicants in the GMA production changed all that. GMA executives noted that, along with male category winner Geoff Taylor, what set Frencheska apart from the rest was confidence.

Frencheska and Geoff each won an exclusive management contract with GMA Artist Center, a record deal with GMA Records, a build-up package including regular guest spots in sig shows, P1 million cash, and a studio unit in Anda Towers New Manila, Quezon City.

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's goldrush on TV. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

✦Mahlon Sino, asked if he had received "makeover" proposals:

"Of course but you know it's normal not just for me but talent ng artistes ... hanbi, it doesn't matter. If they support you, why not be friends? Yeah, right. Tell them that. I

✦Richard Gutierrez on his first movie as a producer:

"It has always been my dream to produce a movie ... Mothfight ko ang input ko, yung ideas ko. And it's a way to give back to the industry."

✦Claudine Barretto after signing a contract with Viva Films:

"Parang na-miss ko ang big screen and I really want to ... experiment so mga pelikula

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ALWAYS Hiles and Troy Montero with kids Hunter, left, and John Mario

Hayden Kho, Vicki's daughter make peace

ONE LOOKING HEREABOUTS IN THE AFTERmath of "Ondoy"—and I am sure she prefers it that way—is Griselle Bathasaras, who has worked tirelessly to bring relief goods and medical assistance to affected communities.

Together with volunteers from the Girls Medical Group, Griselle has personally headed out food and supplies to thousands of families in Marikina. Indi doctors were likewise on hand to provide much-needed help.

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

That's true beauty for you, inside and out.

It is an open secret in show biz circles that Griselle and Hayden Kho are not exactly on friendly terms, but both were happy to set aside whatever differences for the greater good.

Aside from their common concern for "Ondoy" victims, Griselle and Hayden also both love one superwoman, Vicki, who never fails to give her best in love overwhelming things are at their worst.

Cowboy party

Audrey Hiles and Troy Montero's first-